
**APPLICATION FOR THE
DETERMINATION OF
PYRENEES
AS AN AUSTRALIAN
GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATION**

[Not all additional notes and appendices are included in the electronic versions of this document]

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OFFICIAL APPLICATION FORM

SECTION 1

QUALIFICATION CRITERIA

The Pyrenees Vignerons Association Geographical Indications Subcommittee has investigated the question of whether the area falls within the area of a subregion, a region, a zone or any other area, in respect of the proposed region "Pyrenees" as per the material set out in the Australian Wine and Brandy Corporation Regulations 1994.

The five independent vineyards of a minimum of five hectares representative of the area producing a minimum of five hundred tonnes of wine grapes are as follows: -

1. Blue Pyrenees Estate
PO Box 3
AVOCA Vic 3467
Hectares under vine: 153
Approximate tonnage 1100
2. Mount Avoca
PO Box 60
AVOCA VIC 3467
Hectares under vine: 24
Approximate tonnage 200
3. Taltarni
Taltarni Road
MOONAMBEL VIC 3478
Hectares under vine: 115
Approximate tonnage 1000
4. Dalwhinnie
Taltarni Road
MOONAMBEL VIC 3478
Hectares under vine: 16
Approximate tonnage 80
5. Kara Kara
RSD Sunraysia Hwy
Via ST ARNAUD VIC 3478
Hectares under vine: 6
Approximate tonnage 40

Pyrenees Vignerons Association's CENSUS OF LAND USE AND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES IN VITICULTURE in the Pyrenees Wine Region states the total production of wine grapes for this area, as being 2737 tonnes for the 1997/98 season.

See Appendix 1. (Appendix 1a has data produced by the AWBC from ABS data)

SECTION 2

TEXTUAL DESCRIPTION

The Pyrenees Vignerons Association Geographical Indications Subcommittee has investigated the boundary of the area in respect to the proposed region “PYRENEES” as per the material set out in the Australian Wine and Brandy Corporation Regulations 1994.

A COMPREHENSIVE TEXTUAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED BOUNDARY MUST BE WRITTEN AND LODGED WITH THE APPLICATION. THE TEXT MUST IDENTIFY THE NATURAL FEATURES, MAN-MADE FEATURES, GRID REFERENCES ETC. THAT HAVE BEEN USED. FROM A WELL DEFINED STARTING POINT, THE DESCRIPTION SHOULD FOLLOW A CLOCKWISE DIRECTION.

The Geographical indication “The Pyrenees” is located in the zone of “Western Victoria” within the state of Victoria, Australia

The beginning point of the boundary is situated on Map St Arnaud (Sheet 7524) at grid reference YE019451, being the intersection in the township of St Arnaud of the Wimmera (B240) and Sunraysia Highways (B220), then proceeds south easterly along the Sunraysia Highway to its intersection with the Bendigo St Arnaud Road at grid reference YE025444, then proceeds generally easterly along the Bendigo St Arnaud Road to the bridge over the Avoca River at grid reference YE208440, then proceeds generally southerly along Avoca River to the edge of map at grid reference YE230244; On to Map Dunolly (Sheet 7624) at grid reference YE230244, then proceeds generally southerly along the Avoca River to the edge of map at grid reference YE230221; Onto Map St Arnaud (Sheet 7524) at grid reference YE230220, then proceeds generally southerly along the Avoca River to the edge of map at grid reference YE229199; On to Map Dunolly (Sheet 7624) at grid reference YE229199, then proceeds generally southerly along the Avoca River to the edge of map at grid reference YE228146; On to Map St Arnaud (Sheet 7524) at grid reference YE226146, then proceeds generally southerly along the Avoca River to its intersection with the Maryborough St Arnaud Road at grid reference YE198085, then proceeds generally east along the Maryborough St Arnaud Road to its intersection with the Avoca Dunolly Road at grid reference YE270044, then generally south along the Avoca Dunolly Road to the edge of map at grid reference YE266021; On to Map Creswick (Sheet 7623) at grid reference YE266021, then generally south to its intersection with the Wareek Homebush Road at grid reference YD259988, then generally east along the Wareek Homebush Road, then generally south along the Wareek Homebush Road then straight ahead leaving the Wareek Homebush Road at grid reference YD278982 and continuing in a straight line generally south to the intersection of Caralulup Road and the Pyrenees Highway (B180) at grid reference YD265905, then proceeds along the Pyrenees Highway (B180) in a generally easterly direction to its intersection with the Avoca Talbot Road at grid reference YD278905, then along the Avoca Talbot Road to its intersection with the Wareek State Forest at grid reference YD335880, then generally east along the Wareek Daisy Hill State Forest boundary to grid reference YD380848 and then in a straight line generally south to the Lexton-Talbot Road grid reference YD 380814 and

then proceeds generally south westerly along the Lexton Talbot Road to its intersection with the Talbot Waubra Road at grid reference YD331771, then proceeds generally southerly along the Talbot Waubra Road to its intersection with Stud Farm Road at map grid reference YD331730, then proceeds generally southerly along Stud Farm Road to its termination with the Sunraysia Highway at grid reference YD316641, then continues in the same straight line to Troys Road at grid reference YD313625, then proceeds south westerly along Troys Road to the High Voltage Transmission Line at grid reference YD307622, then proceeds north westerly along the High Voltage Transmission Line to the edge of map at map grid reference YD216694; On to Map Beaufort (Sheet 7523) at grid reference YD216694, then to the road known as Ben Major Track at grid reference YD187716, then proceeds generally southerly to its intersection with the Mount Cole State Forest boundary at grid reference YD185711, then proceeds generally north and then west along the State Forest boundary to its intersection with the Elmhurst Beaufort Road at grid reference YD029687, then proceeds generally north along the Elmhurst Beaufort Road to its intersection with the Pyrenees Highway (B180) at grid reference YD014819, then proceeds westerly along the Pyrenees Highway (B180) to the bridge over the Wimmera River at grid reference YD009821, then proceeds generally westerly along the Wimmera River to the bridge on the Ararat Landsborough Road at grid reference XD869859, then proceeds generally north along the Ararat Landsborough Road to grid reference XD885994, then proceeds north westerly in a straight line over the 427 metre hill to the Landsborough Road at grid reference XE870017, then generally westerly along the Landsborough Road to its intersection with the Landsborough West Tulkara Railway Road at grid reference XE824017, then proceeds generally northerly along the Landsborough West Tulkara Railway Road to the edge of map at grid reference XE830032; On to Map St Arnaud (Sheet 7524) at grid reference XE830032, then proceeds north along West Tulkara Railway Road to Wattle Creek Road at grid reference XE831065, then proceeds easterly then northerly and then easterly again along Wattle Creek Road to its intersection with the Landsborough Navarre Road at grid reference XE864070, then proceeds generally northerly along the Landsborough Navarre Road to its intersection with Boundary road at grid reference XE869089, then proceeds generally northerly along Boundary Road to its termination at Navarre Road at grid reference XE876140, then proceeds westerly along the Navarre Road to its intersection with the Navarre Kanya Road at grid reference XE857140, then proceeds north westerly along the Navarre Kanya Road to the edge of map at grid reference XE786266; On to Map Rupanyup (Sheet 7424) at grid reference XE786266 and continues to the intersection with Kanya road at grid reference XE782273 and then generally north easterly along Kanya road to the edge of map at map grid reference XE784274; On to Map St Arnaud (Sheet 7524) at grid reference XE784274 and continues to the intersection with the Navarre St Arnaud Road at grid reference XE907302 and then generally north to its intersection with the Wimmera Highway (B240) at grid reference XE974428, then proceeds generally northerly and then north easterly along the Wimmera Highway (B240) to its termination at the Sunraysia Highway (B220) at grid reference YE019451 being the descriptor starting point.

SECTION 3 MAPS

The Pyrenees Vignerons Association has investigated the boundary of the area and description on maps in respect to the proposed region of "PYRENEES" as per the material set out in the Australian Wine and Brandy Corporation Regulations 1994.

INDICATE THE TITLE, NAME OF PUBLISHERS AND DATE OF ISSUE OF ALL MAPS USED TO DESCRIBE THE PROPOSED BOUNDARY. A MARKED COPY AS WELL AS AN UN-MARKED COPY OF EACH MAP IS TO ACCOMPANY THE APPLICATION

The area boundary used to support the textual description of the geographical indication for "Pyrenees" is presented on the following official maps:

RUPANYUP TOPOGRAPHIC MAP

Scale 1:100 000

Series R652

Map Sheet 6424

Edition 3-AAS

Produced by the Royal Australian Survey Corps

Printed by the Royal Australian Survey Corps, 1987

ST ARNAUD TOPOGRAPHIC MAP

Scale 1:100 000

Series R652

Map Sheet 7524

Edition 3 – AAS

Produced by the Royal Australian Survey Corps

Printed by Royal Australian Survey Corps, 1987

BEAUFORT TOPOGRAPHIC MAP

Scale 1:100,000

Series R652

Map Sheet 7523

Edition 2 – AAS

Produced by the Royal Australian Survey Corps

Printed by the Royal Australian Survey Corps, 1986.

CRESWICK TOPOGRAPHIC MAP

Scale 1:100,000

Series R652

Map Sheet 7623

Edition 2 – AAS

Produced by the Royal Australian Survey Corps

Printed by the Royal Australian Survey Corps, 1986.

DUNOLLY TOPOGRAPHIC MAP

Scale 1:100,000

Series R652

Map Sheet 7624

Edition 3 – AAS

Produced by the Royal Australian Survey Corps

Printed by the Royal Australian Survey Corps, 1987.

SECTION 4

GENERAL HISTORY OF THE AREA

The Pyrenees Vignerons Association has investigated the general history of the area in respect of the proposed region "PYRENEES" as per the material set out in the Australian Wine and Brandy Corporation Regulations 1994.

The area now generally referred to as the Pyrenees was inhabited by and exploited by Aboriginal people from at least 13 000 years ago. Several clans inhabited the area, all falling into the Djadjja Wurrung language group, one of the main dialects that formed a chain of dialects of a single mutually intelligible language often called Kulin. Kulin and its dialects was the main language spoken across central and western inland Victoria.

Around Avoca were the clans of Dirag balug to the south, Banyul willem to the north and the clans of Bulangurd balug, Bial balug and Burung balug from Moonambel and Redbank north to St Arnaud. There are records of killings of the Djadjja Wurrung between 1838 and 1846, but most of the native occupants were driven out or killed by the effects of the gold rush which began in 1851. The effects of alcohol and disease increased aboriginal mortality substantially and resettlement (both voluntary and involuntary in the 1860's and 1870's) resulted in the reduction of the native population to virtually zero.

The explorer and Surveyor General of NSW, Major Thomas Mitchell, traversed the area in the spring of 1836. The Major was impressed by the beauty of the lands surrounding the river the Aborigines called "Yangetta", and in the foothills of the mountain range they knew as "Peerick". Mitchell could hardly fail to have been impressed by the great hills which would have risen upon him in the distance as he approached them. These are a southern extension of the Great Dividing Range which runs down eastern Australia. He gave this distinctive portion of the Range a famous name: the Pyrenees. In doing so he recalled the rugged mountains which divide Spain and France. This was not just a flight of fancy on his part, or an image recalled from book learning. Mitchell had campaigned as a young soldier in the foothills of the European Pyrenees, and so the image meant something to him. The district's principal watercourse called forth another memorable image for the Major. He named the river "Avoca" after the Vale of the Avoca in County Wicklow, Ireland, where the rivers Avonmore and Avonbeg combine to form the Avoca.

Back in Sydney there were prospective settlers eagerly waiting to hear just what good land was to be had in the as yet unopened lands of the southern portion of what was still the Colony of New South Wales. Central Victoria is more temperate and better watered than the dry, scrubby lands of inland New South Wales, which Mitchell was all too familiar with.

The first settlers in the area included some notable men who were to be leaders of the new Colony of Victoria, which was separated from the older Colony of NSW in 1851. John Lesley Fitzgerald Vesey Foster (1818-1900) had two Australian careers, the first as a pastoralist in the Avoca district and the second as a Colonial Civil Servant. In 1839 he sailed for Sydney and in 1842 he took up a pastoral run near Avoca called Natte Yallock. His older

cousin, William Foster Stawell (1815-1889) emigrated to Australia in 1842. In partnership with his cousin, Stawell secured an Avoca district property, Rathscar. Their partnership extended to other ventures as well, including Natte Yallock. Natte Yallock was no simple farm but a huge holding of 43,000 acres with 18 miles of river frontage. And while Foster later recalled that “there was no settler on the Avoca before me” he observed that another settler, Mr Irvine, had an out-station hut on it. He recalled that a few days after his own arrival Mr Colin McKinnon occupied “the Mountain Creek”, which lay between the Pyrenees range and his station. In 1844 a Mr Ellis occupied a station with sheep purchased from Foster some 30 miles down the Avoca. In 1853 Stawell and foster sold their huge holding to Hugh Glass (1817-1871) who was well on the way to becoming Victoria’s richest man. Glass was an aspiring entrepreneur, and an extensive property holder. The great threat to Glass’ holdings, and those of others like him, was radical land legislation which would free up his territory to newcomers. As the squatters of the 1840’s did not have freehold titles to their vast holdings they were vulnerable. The vast tract of land Glass sought to control in the vicinity of the Pyrenees now contains an outstanding viticultural region. And it was on another property of his, namely Tahbilk on the Goulburn River, that during his lifetime was established one of Victoria’s great historic vineyards, Chateau Tahbilk, in the early 1860’s. Regrettably, no comparable vineyards were established in this period in the Pyrenees , although some smaller vineyards were planted in the region at about that time, as were vines in the kitchen gardens of the station homesteads.

One of Victoria’s very first recorded gold discoveries was in fact made in the vicinity of the Pyrenees. In 1847 - 1848 William Richfould, a shepherd employed at Heifer Station, Navarre stumbled across flakes of gold in the creek bed of at Heifer Station Creek. Twelve months later in 1849 Tommy Chapman who was a shepherd on the nearby Glenmona Run found some gold but declined to identify the exact whereabouts of its location. However neither find was widely publicised and it was left to the discoverers of gold at Buninyong in July 1851 to trigger Victoria’s first gold rush.

In 1852 the South Australian Gold escort was established between Adelaide and the phenomenally rich gold fields of Mount Alexander. The escort route passed through the shire of Avoca and brought a stream of hopeful diggers in its train.

The squatter John Foster remembered that the soil of his Natte Yallock run was “very poor” with a “retentive clay lying for the most part on a bed of quartz pebble”. The Main Lead of Avoca which lies to the east of the town and is crossed by both the Pyrenees and Sunraysia Highways was probably opened in October, 1853. From this time the population rose from 100 to 2200 people by the beginning of December. By June 1854, the Avoca was the new home to a rush population of some 16,000 highly mobile gold-hungry people, making the Avoca diggings the first major goldfield opened up in north western Victoria. The miners extended their interest west to the foothills of the Pyrenees where in the last months of 1854 gold was found at Sardine Gully, Middle Creek, Warrenmang and at Fiddlers Creek. While the glory days of Avoca district gold mining were undoubtedly the 1850’s the deeper underground leads continued to provide work for professional miners until the end of the century.

Wineries played a small part in the local economy from the 1860’s until the middle part of the twentieth century. Remnants of old wineries can still be seen today, with the most

famous of the original wineries; Mackereth's in Avoca soon to be in operation once again. This part of Avoca's history is covered in greater detail in section 8.

The boundaries which first determined the Shire of Avoca were proclaimed on 2 December, 1861 when the Avoca Road District was proclaimed. This initially excluded Moonambel and Avoca which at the time were municipalities in their own right, however in 1863 on 28 December all areas were united to form the new Shire of Avoca, which existed until 1994. On 23 September 1994, three rural shires were merged to create a new shire. Such was the reputation of the wineries that the shire took the name of its most famous assets the wineries and the mountains to call itself; - The Pyrenees.

Timber and sheep were the mainstay of the region for most of the twentieth century that saw a general decline in the population and wealth of the area. In many ways the history of the region was very similar to most rural areas. After the gold rush farming was seen as a viable alternative. However poor soil and a difficult climate meant that while it was possible to make a living, it was a way of life that was attracting fewer and fewer people.

Wineries and tourism are now the most important economic activity in the northern part of the Pyrenees Shire. While sheep and some cropping continue to be the most widespread, many farmers rely on the wineries in some way to supplement their income.

The towns of Avoca and Moonambel boast an increasing number of cafés, B & B's and other accommodation, while Moonambel is home to one of Victoria's finest vineyard resorts.

References

- anon. The Victorian Government's Handbook for Viticulture in Victoria (1891)
- Beavis M. & B. Avoca The Early Years Program Print, Hamilton, 1986.
- Benwell W.S. Journey to Wine in Victoria 3rd Edition. Pitman Publishing, Melbourne 1978
- David Dunstan The Wines and Winemakers of the Pyrenees - The natural garden of Victoria. Pyrenees Vignerons Association, Melbourne 1992
- Environment Conservation Council Box - Ironbark, Forests and Woodlands Investigation Resources and Issues Report, Melbourne 1997
- Halliday James Wines and Wineries of Victoria. Mead and Beckett Publishing, Brisbane, 1982

SECTION 5

GRAPE GROWING ATTRIBUTES

i) GEOLOGY

The Pyrenees Vignerons Association has investigated the question of the “GRAPE GROWING ATTRIBUTES – (i) Geology’ in respect of the proposed region “PYRENEES” as per the material set out in the Australian Wine and Brandy Corporation Regulations 1994.

Within the proposed region “Pyrenees” sandy loams, red sandstones, colluvium of pure loam of the Ordovician era and clays associated with the Miocene Sea are overlain by lacustrine (from a lake), fluvial (from a river) and aeolian (wind blown) deposits which have built up over cycles of stable and unstable periods in history. The formations are extremely deep and loosely compacted and represent the land surface of today.

These alluviums are seen throughout the area investigated and shown within the boundaries. While it is to be expected that there is a wide range of soil types over such a large area, there is a striking similarity in the soil types across the region. Generally the top soil is thin, from several centimetres up to half a metre. This is generally a fine grey sandy loam, poor in organic matter and often containing quartz. Below this are layers of clay, varying from red, orange and yellow most commonly to blue and white less commonly. Generally the first layer can be classified as a medium clay and extends from between 30cm to two metres. Below this is heavy clay of various depths. Close to the mountains bedrock is closer to the surface, while the foothills and plains have deeper soils as would be expected as they contain the deposits of the Miocene Sea that once covered much of inland Victoria.

The soil pH is generally acidic. Most of the region is moderately acidic (62%) with 7% of the region classified as extremely acidic. The remaining 31% is mildly acidic. **See appendices 3 and 4.**

Dispersed throughout the upper layers are large amounts of quartz. The thin top soil in much of the region results in this gravel of quartz and clay coming to the surface and streaks of yellow-orange are not uncommon where the topsoil has been disturbed. Areas of shale and schist are not uncommon.

The proposed region “Pyrenees” includes some of the highest terrain in Central and Western Victoria. The Pyrenees Ranges run generally north south and contain large tracts of public land, notably The Pyrenees State Forest, Kara Kara State Forest and Kara Kara State Park. The ranges constitute a dissected surface with moderate to steep slopes and many gullies and narrow to medium valleys of medium gradient. Distinctive geological formations such as granitic intrusions, metamorphic aureoles and hard sandstones provide the basis of areas of higher relief and also account for prominent ridges, isolated hills and locally steep slopes. The edge of these ranges provide broad valleys of typically low relief, ideally suited to vineyard development.

The southern boundary is marked by the change in soil type from that typical of the proposed region “Pyrenees” (as described above) to a rich brown soil up to a metre deep. The mountain range stops and is replaced by a generally smooth rolling landscape punctuated by volcanic vents.

The flora indicates the changing soil structure. See **Section 9, Other Attributes** for more details.

The geology of the area manifests itself to the casual observer as the rounded ridges that make up the mountains of the Pyrenees and the gullies and foothills that surround them. The region of the proposed region “Pyrenees” encloses this range and typically the vineyards of the region lie amongst these foot-hills at various altitudes.

References

- Office of the Commissioner for the Environment 1991 State of the Environment Report - Agriculture and Victoria's Environment, Melbourne 1991
- Environment Conservation Council Box - Ironbark, Forests and Woodlands Investigation Resources and Issues Report, Melbourne 1997

SECTION 5 (cont)
GRAPE GROWING ATTRIBUTES
ii) CLIMATE

The Pyrenees Vignerons Association Committee has investigated the question of the ‘GRAPE GROWING ATTRIBUTES – (ii) Climate’ in respect of the proposed region “PYRENEES” as per the material set out in the Australian Wine and Brandy Corporation Regulations 1994.

The proposed region “Pyrenees” can be clearly distinguished climatically from regions to the north and south by the difference in latitude alone, as close neighbouring regions lie approximately along the same latitude while those regions north and south are generally several hundred kilometres distant. There are other geographic and climatic factors which create even greater differences.

Those regions to the south lying along the southern coast of Victoria experience maritime influences as well as the very different conditions caused by their position south of the dividing range, while the proposed region “Pyrenees” is to the north of the great divide at several hundred metres above sea level.

Those regions at a more northerly latitude are situated closer to the Murray River and are far removed from the orographic effects that control the climate of the proposed region “Pyrenees” and surrounding regions. Associated with this is a completely different weather pattern as would be expected with regions so far apart and sharing very few common attributes. With that in mind, the following data will compare differences between regions lying approximately along the same latitude both to the east and the west.

Temperature

AVERAGE MAXIMUM AND MINIMUM TEMPERATURES (°C)

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Ma	June	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Ararat	Max	27.7	26.4	23.9	19.3	14.6	12.5	11.1	12.7	15.3	18.6	21.6	23.9
	Min	11.9	12.6	11.0	8.4	6.7	5.1	4.0	4.7	6.0	7.5	8.8	10.4
Avoca	Max	29.2	28.8	25.3	20.6	15.6	13.0	12.3	13.5	16.1	19.9	22.4	26.1
	Min	12.6	13.4	10.6	7.5	5.4	2.9	2.6	3.6	4.5	6.4	8.3	10.5
Bendigo	Max	29.0	28.4	25.3	20.5	15.8	13.3	12.0	13.6	16.2	19.8	23.3	26.5
	Min	14.3	14.7	12.5	9.1	6.4	4.5	3.5	4.4	5.9	8.28	10.4	12.6
Stawell	Max	27.5	28.0	24.6	20.1	16.0	13.0	12.4	13.7	15.5	18.9	21.9	25.8
	Min	12.8	13.4	11.3	9.0	6.9	4.5	3.9	4.5	5.9	7.5	9.7	11.3

From “Report on the Ballarat Area (1980)”, Report on the North Central Area (1978), Land Conservation Council

	Mean January Temperature	Mean Annual Range
Ararat	19.8	12.25
Avoca	20.9	13.5
Bendigo	21.65	13.9
Stawell	20.2	12.05

While the Mean January Temperature (MJT) for the proposed region “Pyrenees” is slightly higher than Ararat it is lower than Bendigo. The Mean Annual Range Temperature (MAR) represents the difference between the January and July mean temperatures. A higher MAR value for a corresponding MJT indicates lower Spring and Autumn temperatures and hence generally a slower ripening. This data shows that while the proposed region “Pyrenees” is in general hotter than the Grampians for several weeks over Summer, Spring and Autumn are generally cooler than the Grampians. The minimum temperatures for the Pyrenees are generally similar or lower than both Grampians and Bendigo. Another factor to consider is that most vineyards are situated higher than the Avoca Post Office weather station and vineyard temperatures are therefore likely to be slightly cooler than the official recorded temperatures. This is not so in the other regions where the vineyards and weather station are in general at approximately the same elevation.

FROST:

	Average date of first frost	Average date of last frost	Average frost free period (days)
Ararat	May 20	September 21	240
Avoca	April 26	October 16	191
Bendigo	na	na	na
Stawell	June 1	September 15	258

From ‘Resources Survey of Central Highlands Region’ and Bureau of Meteorology Records

AVERAGE NUMBER OF FROSTS PER MONTH

	Feb	Mar	April	Ma	June	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Year
Ararat	0	0.1	0.4	0.5	4.1	3.8	2.3	0.9	0.4	0	12.5
Avoca	0	0.2	0.6	6.3	8.3	9.9	6.1	5.8	2.1	0	39.3
Bendigo	0	na	na	na	na	na	na	2.6	0.4	0	
Stawell	0	0.3	1.4	4.2	4.2	3.2	1.3	0.2	0	0	14.7

From 'Resources Survey of Central Highlands Region' and Bureau of Meteorology Records

This trend to cooler Springs and Autumns can be clearly seen by comparing frost data. The proposed region "Pyrenees" having two months less frost-free days than both northern and southern Grampians meteorological centres. The proposed region "Pyrenees" has minimum temperatures lower than the Grampians for most of the year. This confirms the conclusion drawn from the high MAR's that while the proposed region "Pyrenees" will have higher maximums over Summer; the Spring, Autumn and night time weather is generally cooler.

Rainfall**AVERAGE MONTHLY AND ANNUAL RAINFALL (MM)**

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Ma	June	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year
Ararat	31	34	39	44	60	67	64	68	62	61	48	38	616
Avoca	27	37	30	41	51	61	60	61	52	49	38	36	543
Bendigo	33	34	36	41	54	60	55	57	55	53	38	32	548
Stawell	39	39	32	59	57	44	59	60	66	68	48	22	593

From Bureau of Meteorology Computer Records, 1857 - 1974

While at a very similar latitude the data shows that generally the proposed region "Pyrenees" is drier than its neighbours. The proposed region "Pyrenees" has significantly lower annual rainfall than the Grampians and slightly lower than Bendigo. The Pyrenees is drier from January to March than both neighbouring wine regions. This is the most important time of the year in terms of the effects on growing vines and fruit composition, (ie post veraison through to harvest).

HUMIDITY AND RAIN DAYS ACROSS NEIGHBOURING REGIONS

Region	Town	Relative Humidity (Jan-July mean)	Rain days
Grampians (north)	Ararat	61.0	126
Pyrenees	Avoca	58.0	100
Grampians (south)	Stawell	63.5	132
Central Victoria	Bendigo	59.5	103
Central Victoria	Castlemaine	59.5	103

The number of rain days is also lower than regions to the east and west, and humidity is lower.

Sunshine hours from October to March

Direct data is not available, but the higher daily maximum temperature, lower minimums, lower relative humidity and lower number of rain days would indicate that the daily number of sunshine hours is slightly higher than our neighbours at the same latitude.

Conclusion

While regions to the east and west share some similarities, as would be expected for close neighbours at the same latitude, there are significant differences that affect the phenology and profile of grapes grown in the region.

Lower humidity also means less disease pressure and clean, perfect fruit. Cold winter temperatures also reduce over wintering by many pests which helps in producing crops undamaged by insect pests.

Importantly, the lower humidity and cooler night-time temperatures slows ripening, while warm summer temperatures and high sunshine hours produce fully ripe grapes with character and depth as the ripening process is extended by the cooler night-time temperatures.

It is this combination of high sunshine hours, daytime heat and cool nights that is significant in distinguishing “Pyrenees” from other regions. Visiting viticulturists are invariably surprised at the relative lateness of the harvest dates given the summer daytime temperatures.

SECTION 5 (cont)

GRAPE GROWING ATTRIBUTES

iii) HARVEST DATES

The Pyrenees Vignerons Association Committee has investigated the question of the 'GRAPE GROWING ATTRIBUTES – (iii) Harvest Dates' in respect of the proposed region "PYRENEES" as per the material set out in the Australian Wine and Brandy Corporation Regulations 1994.

Harvest dates are indicators of general trends only. Experience and data indicate that variations within the same vineyard from year to year are so large that it is inadvisable to rely on harvest dates for direct comparisons without allowing for other factors. Factors that may affect harvest dates include; crop yield, clonal differences, type of trellis, general vine health, the age of the vines, leaf to crop ratios, irrigation, fertilisers and nutrient levels, ripeness when picked, desired wine style, etc..

Grape Phenology

Table 2 (P. May 1966 to 1970) indicates the dates of budburst, flowering and harvest in proposed region "Pyrenees" and Grampians for Shiraz.

	PYRENEES	GRAMPIANS
BUDBURST	25.9	27.9
FLOWERING	27.11	29.11
HARVEST	10.4	15.4

On average, the main stages of grape development in the proposed region "Pyrenees" area are 2 to 5 days before those in Grampians.

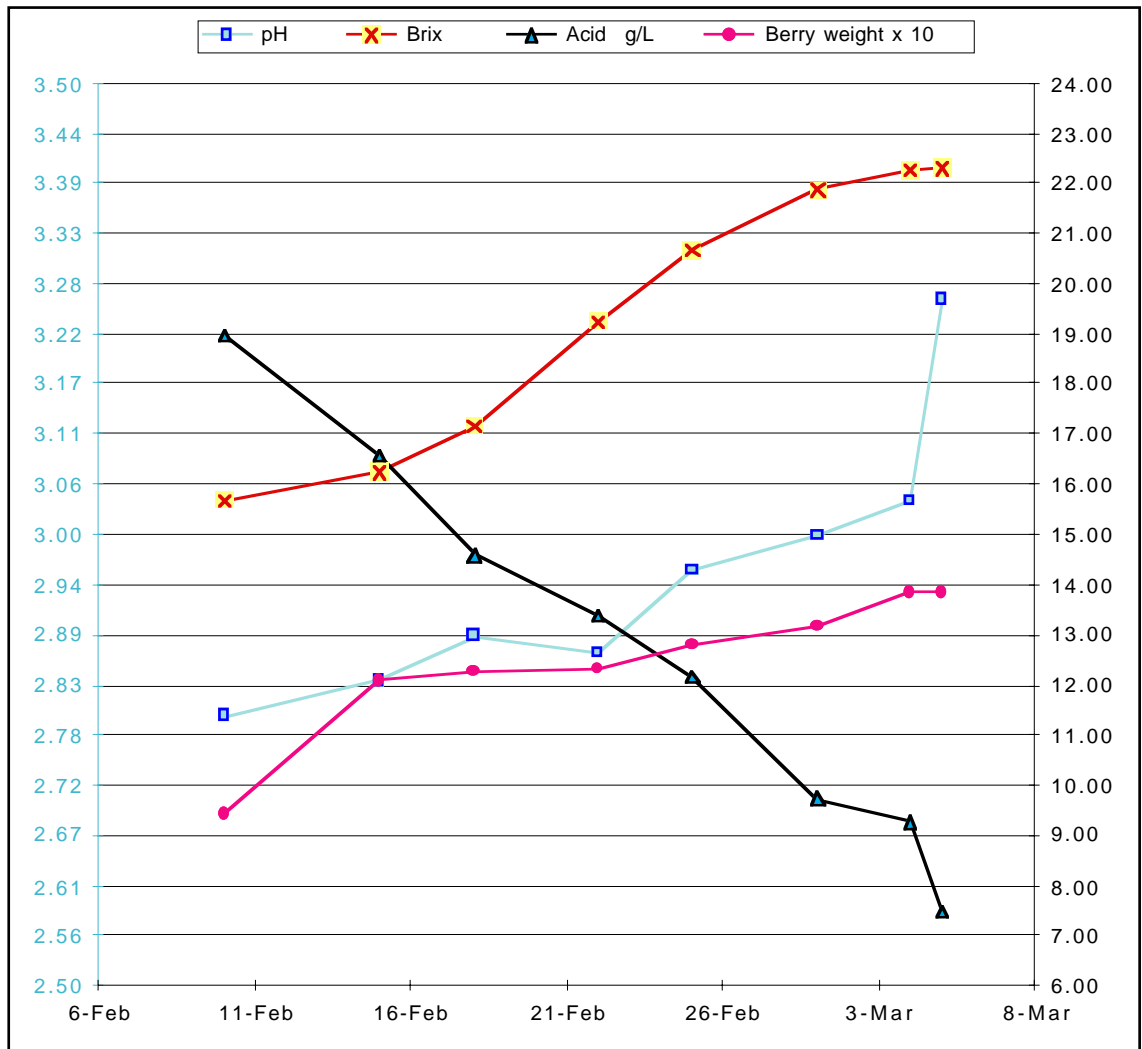
The proposed region "Pyrenees" is similar to Grampians but temperature and rainfall data indicate it is consistently warmer (day time temperature) and with less rain. The area is generally, uniform being included in the same isotherms bracket and showing the same dates for the main phenologic stages.

Harvest runs in general from mid to early march for sparkling wine base, Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc, through to April and May for Shiraz and Cabemet Varieties.

The following table and graphs indicate variations between two blocks of the same variety in the same vineyard for the same year. However local knowledge and experience indicates harvest dates for the whole region tend to move together, ie an early or late season is experienced by most if not all vineyards in the region.

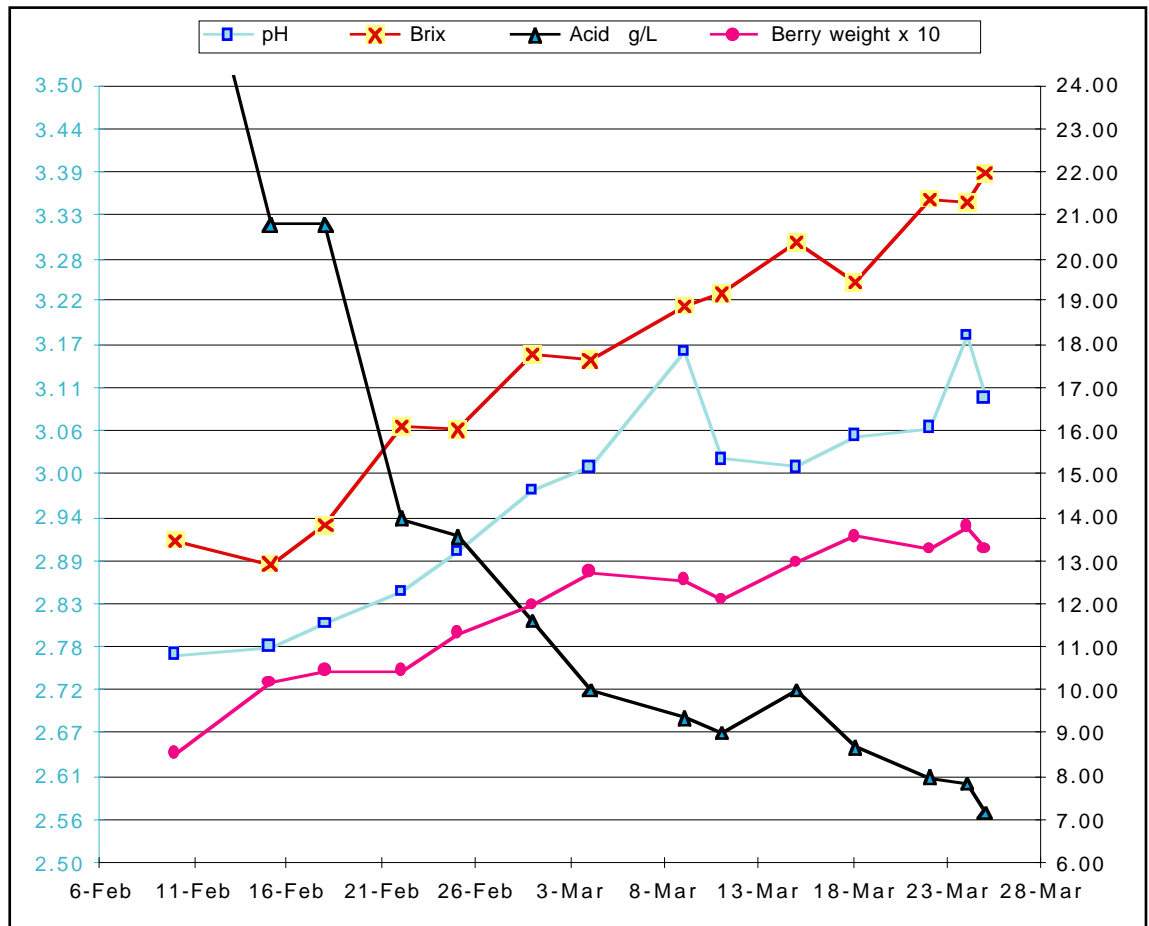
Ripening data for Sauvignon Blanc (1) at Mount Avoca Vineyard for the 1999 vintage

Date	Brix	Acid g/L	pH	Total Weight 200 Berries g	Berr weight x 10
10-Feb	15.70	19.00	2.80	189	9.450
15-Feb	16.24	16.60	2.84	242	12.100
18-Feb	17.19	14.60	2.89	246	12.300
22-Feb	19.27	13.40	2.87	247	12.350
25-Feb	20.67	12.20	2.96	256	12.800
1-Mar	21.88	9.74	3.00	264	13.200
4-Mar	22.27	9.30	3.04	277	13.850
5-Mar	22.30	7.50	3.26	277	13.850



Ripening data for Sauvignon Blanc (2) at Mount Avoca Vineyard for the 1999 vintage

Date	Brix	Acid g/L	pH	Total Weight 200 Berries g	Berr weight x 10
15-Feb	12.94	20.80	2.78	204	10.200
18-Feb	13.86	20.80	2.81	210	10.500
22-Feb	16.14	14.00	2.85	210	10.500
25-Feb	16.07	13.60	2.90	227	11.350
1-Mar	17.80	11.60	2.98	240	12.000
4-Mar	17.67	10.00	3.01	255	12.750
9-Mar	18.94	9.40	3.16	252	12.600
11-Mar	19.20	9.00	3.02	242	12.100
15-Mar	20.40	10.00	3.01	260	13.000
18-Mar	19.50	8.69	3.05	272	13.600
22-Mar	21.39	7.99	3.06	266	13.300
24-Mar	21.30	7.86	3.18	276	13.800
25-Mar	22.00	7.20	3.10	266	13.300



From this data it can be seen that it is possible to have large time differences in harvest dates, even between the same variety at the same site. This indicates that date alone, while an indicator, should not be used without taking into consideration other factors as mentioned above.

Taking into consideration all of the above, there are strong similarities in the harvest dates across the proposed region “Pyrenees” as would be expected given the climatic and soil data are similar throughout the proposed region.

SECTION 5 (cont)

GRAPE GROWING ATTRIBUTES

iv) DRAINAGE BASIN

The Pyrenees Vignerons Association Committee has investigated the question of the 'GRAPE GROWING ATTRIBUTES – (iv) Drainage basin' in respect of the proposed region "PYRENEES" as per the material set out in the Australian Wine and Brandy Corporation Regulations 1994.

The proposed region "Pyrenees" Region lies within the Wimmera Mallee Water Catchment Authority area. The vineyards to the east of the Pyrenees Range all lie within the Avoca River Drainage Basin. The Avoca River flows generally north to Lake Bael Bael and eventually water flows into the Murray, but only in wet years. The southern most part of the region lies along the edge of the southern edge of the Avoca and Loddon River basins.

The areas west of the Pyrenees Range lie at the beginning of the Wimmera River. This area lies within the Wimmera River Basin. This area is newly planted and pertains to vineyards close to Elmhurst and Landsborough.

The region of the proposed region "Pyrenees" lies north of the divide and generally all parts of the region lie in areas that form part of these northward drainage basins as opposed to south of the divide where the drainage basin (Hopkins) drains directly south to the coast.

See **appendices 3 and 4** for drainage basin outlines.

References

Office of the Commissioner for the Environment 1991 State of the Environment Report - Agriculture and Victoria's Environment, Melbourne 1991

Environment Conservation Council Box - Ironbark, Forests and Woodlands Investigation Resources and Issues Report, Melbourne 1997

SECTION 5 (cont)

GRAPE GROWING ATTRIBUTES

v) IRRIGATION

The Pyrenees Vignerons Association Committee has investigated the question of the 'GRAPE GROWING ATTRIBUTES – (v) Irrigation' in respect of the proposed region "PYRENEES" as per the material set out in the Australian Wine and Brandy Corporation Regulations 1994.

There is no irrigation scheme applicable to the proposed region "Pyrenees".

Grapes are either grown as unirrigated or irrigated by trickle irrigation sourced from dams located adjacent to the vineyards. This supplementary irrigation is dependent on good winter rains and supply is not always guaranteed for the full growing season.

SECTION 5 (cont)

GRAPE GROWING ATTRIBUTES

vi) ELEVATION

The Pyrenees Vignerons Association Committee has investigated the question of the 'GRAPE GROWING ATTRIBUTES – (vi) Elevation' in respect of the proposed region "PYRENEES" as per the material set out in the Australian Wine and Brandy Corporation Regulations 1994.

The proposed region "Pyrenees" is along the Pyrenees range of hills and lies on the northern side of the Great Dividing Range, (see (iv) Drainage Basins).

Elevation of the area is 150 – 900 metres above sea level, with most of the viticultural areas 200 – 400 metres above sea level as determined from the enclosed maps.

These viticultural elevations are seen for all vineyards in the area investigated and shown within the boundaries.

This area has less disease pressure on vines than areas south of the divide because of the lower humidity and rainfall and greater temperature differentials caused by the higher elevation of the regions vineyards.

SECTION 5 (cont)

GRAPE GROWING ATTRIBUTES

vii) OTHER ATTRIBUTES

The Pyrenees Vignerons Association Committee has investigated the question of the ‘GRAPE GROWING ATTRIBUTES – (vii) Other attributes’ in respect of the proposed region “PYRENEES” as per the material set out in the Australian Wine and Brandy Corporation Regulations 1994.

Average to low yielding crops for most varieties are able to be ripened in this area and most varieties can be grown to the quality that is required to produce premium and ultra premium wine for use in bottled products.

This area has less disease pressure on vines than areas south of the divide because of the lower humidity and rainfall and greater temperature differentials as mentioned in Sections 5 (ii), 5(vi). Incidence of Powdery Mildew and Downy Mildew are very low in most years. Minimal spray programs are in place in many vineyards. One effect of this is that The proposed region “Pyrenees” has a lower vineyard chemical input than most Australian wine regions. Other pests are also partially controlled by the extremes in temperature. Cold nights and frosts deter many pathogens, while low humidity and high summer day time temperatures also reduce pest numbers. As pest numbers are not generally in extremely high numbers, biological controls can be used very effectively. Parasites and predators are used to control pests in many vineyards in the proposed region “Pyrenees”.

SECTION 6

DEVELOPMENT PLANS

The Pyrenees Vignerons Association Committee has investigated the question of the 'Development Plans' in respect of the proposed region "PYRENEES" as per the material set out in the Australian Wine and Brandy Corporation Regulations 1994.

The Pyrenees Shire Council, as the local government and planning authority, is not aware of any current or future development which is likely to impinge on the future operations and development of the wine grape growing industry in this region.

The Council is aware of the significance to the local economy of the wine grape industry, and will do all it can to guarantee the future of this industry.

SECTION 7 TRADITIONAL USE

The Pyrenees Vignerons Association Committee has investigated the question of 'Traditional Use' in respect of the proposed region "PYRENEES" as per the material set out in the Australian Wine and Brandy Corporation Regulations 1994.

All vineyards in the region have been using the word Pyrenees to describe this region for about 20 years

Over the last twenty years considerable progress has been made in increasing the use of the name Pyrenees. Most vineyards use Pyrenees on their label or in their address (in accordance with Label Integrity Program rules and the AWBC act) and the region is well known as the Pyrenees among wine drinkers and increasingly the general public.

Federal, State, Local Government and private enterprise organisations and publications use the name "Pyrenees" to describe the wineries and region of the Pyrenees District. Tourism Victoria publications have been describing the area as Pyrenees since the 1980's.

For the last decade there have been significant publications in both private and public sectors describing the region as "The Pyrenees."

On 23 September 1994, three rural shires were merged to create a new shire. One of those shires was the Avoca Shire, at that time containing all the Pyrenees wineries. Such was the reputation of the wineries that the shire took the name of its most famous asset, to call itself; - The Pyrenees. (Note that the mountain range runs north of Avoca away from the other two shires included in the amalgamation).

The vignerons of the region have been calling themselves Pyrenees Vignerons since the early 1980's.

W. S. (Sam) Benwell first suggests the use of the name Pyrenees in his Journey into Wine in Victoria 1978, Pitman Publishing 3rd ed. Melbourne. He devotes 11 pages to his chapter "The Pyrenees" and the map on page on page 161 covers the southern part of the proposed region "Pyrenees" including area not planted until the 1990's.

James Halliday, Wines & Wineries of Victoria 1982, University of Queensland Press, Brisbane, has a chapter on the Pyrenees on page 66 including a map.

Alan Young's Australian Wines & Wineries 1983, Castle Books Melbourne, has a section headed 'Pyrenees Region' (p.115), which describes the region as we know it today.

Every book that we have sourced, published from the mid 1980's onward about wine in Victoria has included the region and used the name Pyrenees to describe the region.

See appendices 5, 6 and 7 for extracts and copies of material about the Pyrenees.

SECTION 8

WINE & GRAPE HISTORY

The Pyrenees Vignerons Association Committee has investigated the question of the 'Wine and Grape History' in respect of the proposed region "PYRENEES" as per the material set out in the Australian Wine and Brandy Corporation Regulations 1994.

The Victorian Government's Handbook for Viticulture in Victoria (1891) recorded vineyards in such diverse places as Dunolly, Moonambel, Dimboola, Bet Bet, Stawell, Ararat, Rhymney, Great Western, Landsborough, Deep Lead, Lexton, Avoca, Bealiba, Talbot, Lamplough, Amphitheatre, Clunes and Redbank.

There were no vines in the spring of 1836 when a party led by the explorer and Surveyor General of NSW, Major Thomas Mitchell, traversed the area. The Major was impressed by the beauty of the lands surrounding the river which the Aborigines called "Yangetta", and in the foothills of the mountain range they knew as "Peerick". Mitchell could hardly fail to have been impressed by the great hills which would have risen upon him in the distance as he approached them. These are a southern extension of the Great Dividing Range which runs down eastern Australia. He gave this distinctive portion of the Range a famous name: the Pyrenees. In doing so he recalled the rugged mountains which divide Spain and France. This was not just a flight of fancy on his part, or an image recalled from book learning. Mitchell had campaigned as a young soldier in the foothills of the European Pyrenees, and so the image meant something to him. The district's principal watercourse called forth another memorable image for the Major. He named the river "Avoca" after the Vale of the Avoca in County Wicklow, Ireland, where the rivers Avonmore and Avonbeg combine to form the Avoca.

In 1862 Patrick Murnane applied to establish ten acres of vineyard at Redbank. This was when the Victorian Government sought to extend the range of Agricultural activity by way of special lease provisions under a special provision of the Land Act. The early settlers of the district planted vines in their kitchen gardens for fresh fruit.

The man with the best claim to be the district's pioneer wine maker was a farmer, Edwin Horatio Mackereth, born in Yorkshire in 1828. He worked on his father's farm, until the prospect of gold and a new life lured him to Australia in the early 1850's. Edwin and his German born wife Catherine settled on a block of virgin land about two kilometres west of Avoca which he named Hedon Farm in 1860.

As late as the 1880's when Great Western was already famous, the Pyrenees still had no wine industry to speak of. But Edwin Mackereth had plans. He was inspired by the new enthusiasm for viticulture and wine making that had been spread by the politicians and leading industry figures of the period. About 1887 he planted a small vineyard of three quarters of an acre. In 1890 the Government resolved to boost the wine industry and to this end they promised a bonus to vignerons intending to plant. Mackereth notified the

Government of his intention to plant 14 acres and duly applied for a bonus. On 29 November, 1889, the newly appointed Government viticultural expert, Italian born and trained Romeo Bragato, visited the area at Mackereth's invitation with a view to advising prospective growers on the suitability of the soils and climates for viticulture. Bragato's report was extremely favourable. Part of the reason for this was the soil of the district, loamy on top with gravelling subsoil, noting that good and natural drainage such as that which prevailed in Mackereth's Land "suits splendidly for vine-growing". The vines that he considered best suited to the district were black Hermitage (shiraz), Burgundy (Pinot Noir), and Mataro for red wine, and Pinot, Verdelho and Riesling for white. The following year Bragato returned and noted Mackereth's intention to plant 15 acres of vines, and to steadily increase the size of his vineyard year by year. Bragato raised the hopes of aspiring vignerons, claiming that Avoca was better adapted for wine growing than most districts in the colony.

He was exceedingly pleased with wines which he had sampled which were nice, delicate wines with an excellent flavour from the earthy taste so noticeable in most vineyards, and ...just fitted for the London market. At Mr Mackereth's he was somewhat surprised to find that 332 gallons of wine were obtained from half an acre of ground and Mr Mackereth will plant 20 acres next year! Signor Bragato finished by saying "I look upon Mr Mackereth as the pioneer of the wine grower in the Avoca District..."

In 1890 Mackereth sold five dozen bottles at 14 shillings a dozen to the Wise's general store in Avoca. Sons, Edwin, John and Charles, were proprietors of the Avoca Vineyard "from the great days of the nineteenth century until about 1930". Edwin, a member of the Victorian Police Force, resigned from it to become a vigneron; and John, a teacher of drawing and music, joined Edwin in 1908 after Charles died at the age of twenty-eight. Prior to this they knew little about viticulture although they considered it highly profitable. They used the "Pinneau" (Pinot) for their red wines and also made Port from the same variety. Their wines met with great success and many proved to be prize-winners overseas. But problems arose: local consumption was limited and with costs mounting and income falling they found it difficult to afford the machinery necessary for an efficient enterprise. Some of it they made themselves, "even cutting gear cogs by hand from discs of red gum". In 1920 The Mackereth enterprise comprised 40 acres bearing vineyard, but these were lean years for the wine industry which saw the price of wine fall, moves towards prohibition, and the closure of many small wineries. The winery then "had a storage capacity in excess of 91,000 litres and supported three wine shops in Avoca. Eventually they could no longer survive as vignerons and began negotiations to sell out to Seppelts. The sale fell through ... (and) Seppelts turned their attention to Hans Irvine's Great Western vineyards ... In 1929 Mackereth sold out to a Methodist minister named Dawson, who promptly closed the winery, broke down the cellars and pulled out the 20 hectares on vineyards".

On his second visit to the district in 1890 Romeo Bragato would also visit Mr William A. Adams who had taken up a selection of land at Mountain Creek, near Moonambel, where he had planted a substantial vineyard of 30 acres. In 1890 Bragato reported that he had 4,000 gallons of "good sound delicate dry wine" from the previous season, and that the following year he intended to increase the size of his vineyard and build a new cellar to take an expected 10,000 gallons. Adam's land was later broken up but the original vineyard was purchased by another man with industry experience. Kofoed, who had worked for Hans Irvine at Great Western. Kofoed continued with his vineyard and winery until 1947 when he became too old to work it. As none of his relatives were interested in continuing the business,

it was sold to a farming family who kept the vineyards going in a desultory fashion for a number of years before cattle were again turned in on a Pyrenees district vineyard.

The Agricultural Statistics of Victoria for the year ending on 31st March 1870 included the following details for the Avoca Shire.

Grapes Gathers:

Not made into wine or brandy – 167 cwt.

Made into wine or brandy – 39 cwt.

Wine produced – 216 gallons.

No brandy

Discussing the town's prospects in July 1864, the *Avoca Mail* prophesied that the cultivation of vineyards in the district could well give rise to a flourishing industry and in a short time become "almost indigenous". A little over one hundred years later this vision has become a reality.

A second wine prophecy was made by Mr Bladier to the Australian Wine Association in 1886:

.. the ground which has produced the gold will produce yet the best wine ... Indeed, to the present time the auriferous districts have proved the most favourable for the production of good wines: Bendigo, Great Western, Dunolly....."

Still, vineyard techniques became more complex. Only those with capital reserves or profitable diversification were going to survive. Disease appears not to have been a factor in the decline of viticulture in the early part of the twentieth century in the Pyrenees region, but rather economic factors.

A recently uncovered report shows that to the north in what is now the northern part of the Pyrenees wine growing area, vineyards also thrived in the later part of the 19th century.

Travelling Reporter “The Mercury” 5th December 1894.

Mr. Berry’s Model Orchard Carapooee 1894..

Situated on the bank of Carapooee Creek is the loveliest orchard imaginable having been there for 32 years Entering through a wicket gate in a picket fence the flower garden is a picture and the odour of roses delicious In the orchard the vines call for special notice, consisting of 2000 vines in full bearing, varieties being - Gordo Blanco; Muscat Alex; Raisin de Dame; Black Cluster; White Muscat; Black Muscat; Black St. Peter; Golden Cluster; Black Hermitage and Sweet Water. . . .

. . . Mr. Berry makes wine - Hermitage, he finds a ready sale for all his fruit and vegetables and visits St. Amaud three times a week in the fruit season.

He relies wholly on his garden and orchard for any return.

There may be larger orchards in Kara Kara but not another one to compete with Mr. Berry for a natty completeness of style and general all round tidiness.

Little remains of this original vineyard, but a new vineyard now graces the same landscape.

The second half of the twentieth century has seen the renaissance of the Pyrenees with two waves of plantings. In 1963 the renaissance began with the 1970’s seeing most of the early development. The second wave of plantings in the nineties will more than double the number of vineyards and area of vines. In 1999 the number of vineyards producing wines under their own label has increased to 13.

Blue Pyrenees began planting in 1963 under the name Chateau Remy. It wasn’t until several years later that they started planting commercially. John Barry purchased land in 1969 to start a vineyard, and began planting in 1970 what is now Mount Avoca Vineyard. John Barry did extensive research across the state and initially favoured other areas, however it was the Department of Agriculture and other scientific data that convinced him of the natural climatic and geographic suitability of the Pyrenees as an ideal site for a vineyard. Taltarni also began with extensive research. After a world wide search for a suitable new world site, Avoca was finally chosen. As there was no land available, a recently established vineyard at Moonambel was purchased.

Today well over 30 vineyards totalling 590 hectares make the Pyrenees a key Victorian Wine Region, with an increasing worldwide reputation. Twenty-five varieties of wine grapes are grown in the district with major plantings of Shiraz, Chardonnay, Cabernet Sauvignon, Sauvignon Blanc, Pinot Noir, and Merlot. Since 1987 the plantings of specialist wine grape varieties has increased from 300 to 590 hectares with 3850 tonnes of wine grapes being produced by the district. Bearing vineyard will approach 1000 hectares as the most recent plantings start to reach maturity. Expansion by existing vineyards and new ventures is likely to continue.

The Pyrenees region vineyard census is enclosed. See appendix 1

References

- anon. The Victorian Government's Handbook for Viticulture in Victoria (1891)
- Beavis M. & B. Avoca The Early Years Program Print, Hamilton, 1986.
- Benwell W.S. Journey to Wine in Victoria 3rd Edition. Wilke & Co Ltd. Melbourne 1978
- David Dunstan The Wines and Winemakers of the Pyrenees - The natural garden of Victoria. Pyrenees Vignerons Association, Melbourne 1992
- Halliday James Wines and Wineries of Victoria. Mead and Beckett Publishing, Brisbane, 1982

Producing Wineries & Vineyards

Amherst Vineyard

Proprietor: Norman and Elizabeth Jones
Established: 1990. First Vintage 1995
Hectares under vine: 4
Features: Specialising in Shiraz, Cabernet and Chardonnay.

Berry's Bridge Vineyard

Proprietor: Roger Milner & Jane Holt
Established: 1990. First Vintage 1997
Hectares under vine: 6.4
Features: Specialising in Cabernet, Shiraz and Merlot.

Blue Pyrenees Estate

Proprietor: Remy Martin Cognac
Established: 1963, First Vintage 1966
Hectares under vine: 153
Features: Set in idyllic surroundings and with extensive landscaped gardens. Alfresco lunches available weekends.

Dalwhinnie

Proprietor: David & Jenny Jones
Established: 1976. First Vintage 1980
Hectares under vine: 16
Features: Dalwhinnie is the highest vineyard in the Pyrenees commanding spectacular views of the valley. Specialise in dry wine styles. Petanque & piste on site.

Kara Kara

Proprietor: Marlene & Steve Zsigmond
Established: 1977. First Vintage 1991
Hectares under vine: 6
Features: Specialising in white table wines. BBQ facilities and Picnic area. Garden functions catered for.

Mountain Creek

Proprietor: Brian Cherry
Established: 1973
Hectares under vine: 6.5

Mount Avoca Vineyard

Proprietors: John & Arda Barry
Winemaker: Matthew Barry
Established: 1970. First Vintage 1976
Hectares under vine: 24
Features: Premium red and white table wines. Picnic area under shading grapevines. Pétanque piste and food available daily. 100% grown and made at the winery.

Peerick

Proprietors: Chris & Meryll Jessup
Established: 1990. First Vintage 1996
Hectares under vine: 6
Features: Specialising in red and white table wines.

Redbank

Proprietors: Neill & Sally Robb
Established: 1973
Hectares under vine: 20
Features: Home of famous Sally's Paddock. Wide range of wines available.

St Ignatius Vineyard

Proprietors: Enrique & Silvia Diaz
Established: 1992. First Vintage 1997
Hectares under vine: 6
Features: Specialising in red wines. Gourmet lunches available

Summerfield

Proprietor: Ian Summerfield
Established: 1970. First Vintage 1979
Hectares under vine: 7.2
Features: Self contained units. BBQ facilities available. A 1000m air strip is located at the vineyard.

Taltarni

Proprietor: Taltarni Vineyards
Established: 1972. First Vintage 1977
Hectares under vine: 115
Features: Specialising in sparkling and dry wine styles.

Warrenmang Vineyard Resort

Proprietor: Luigi & Athalie Bazzani
Established: 1975. First Vintage 1978
Hectares under vine: 12
Features: Award winning Restaurant (2 Hats "Age Good Food Guide") Accommodation capacity 84 guests. Pool, spa, tennis. Picnic hampers available.

Wineries & Vineyards Opening Soon

Laplough Estate

Proprietors: Vince & Jean Scully
Established: 1997. First Vintage 2000
Hectares under vine: 4.2

Quoin Hill Vineyard

Proprietors: Steve & Patricia Coleman
Established: 1997. First Vintage 1999
Hectares under vine: 3.47
Features: Gateway to the Pyrenees

Shays Flat

Proprietors: Robert and Isabella Burns
Established: 1997. First Vintage tba
Hectares under vine:
Features:

Pyrenees Ridge Estate

Proprietors: Graeme and Sally Anne Jukes
Established: 1996. First Vintage 1999
Hectares under vine:
Features: Quality small batch red wines.

SECTION 9

OTHER ATTRIBUTES

The Pyrenees Vignerons Association Committee has investigated the question of 'Other Attributes' in respect of the proposed region "PYRENEES" as per the material set out in the Australian Wine and Brandy Corporation Regulations 1994.

General Comments on wine style

The proposed region "Pyrenees" has built a reputation for full bodied red wine, particularly Cabernet and Shiraz. Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc are also particularly well suited to the region.

The ripening conditions and low yield mean that proposed region "Pyrenees" are typically made from fully ripened fruit, ie lacking in green vegetal characteristics. However the slow ripening does allow full retention of methoxy-pyrazine characters where desired in Cabernet varieties and Sauvignon Blanc.

While fully ripe and full bodied, Pyrenees wines have strong structure without excessive extractive characters, nor do they suffer from over-ripe jammy characters of some hotter regions. The altitude and large diurnal differences produce grapes with high acid levels for a given sugar level compared with many other regions.

Other varieties have been planted in small amounts, producing excellent wines, but they are not yet in large enough quantities to allow generalised descriptions.

General Appearance of the Region

General flora is very distinctive and constant across the region. The Pyrenees State Forest covers most of the range and vineyards are generally in close proximity. The Pyrenees State Forest and other forests in the region contain large numbers of Stringy Bark, lesser amounts of Box, including Yellow and Grey. Iron Bark are also scattered throughout. By the creeks and rivers Red Gum are commonly found. The generally poor soil and unreliable weather patterns determine the kind of native plants that grow within the region.

The distinctive flora and colour of the soil combine to give a distinctive appearance to the proposed region "Pyrenees". Other Victorian regions to the south of the divide are completely different in appearance. The regions to the north (Wimmera) are completely flat and treeless, while to the east and west, the regions are superficially similar in many ways. Closer inspection shows that these visual differences still exist. Soil colour is quite different as is the underlying geology. The flora is related but still visually different.

General Boundaries of the Region

The proposed region “Pyrenees” is on the boundary of the Western Victoria Zone. The eastern boundary of the Pyrenees region approximates, or lies on, the eastern boundary of the Western Zone.

The western boundary of the proposed region “Pyrenees” coincides with the eastern boundary of the Grampians wine region.

The southern boundary of the proposed region “Pyrenees” lies on, or close to, the southern boundary of the Avoca, Wimmera and Loddon drainage basins. **See appendix 3.**

The northern boundary of the proposed region “Pyrenees” approximates the boundary of land use between dry land pasture (included) and broad-acre cropping (excluded) as outlined by; The Office of the Commissioner for the Environment in the 1991 State of the Environment Report - Agriculture and Victoria’s Environment Melbourne 1991 **See appendix 3.**

SECTION 10 GENERAL COMMENTS

The Pyrenees Vignerons Association Committee has investigated the question of 'General Comments' in respect of the proposed region "PYRENEES" as per the material set out in the Australian Wine and Brandy Corporation Regulations 1994.

Publication of determinations should be made in the following local papers:

Pyrenees Advocate **Tel: 03 5465 3458** **Fax: 03 5465 3065**

Maryborough Advertiser **Tel: 03 5461 3866** **Fax: 03 5461 4407**

Other local papers:

Ballarat Courier **Tel: 03 5320 1200** **Fax: 03 5333 1651**

North Central News (St Arnaud) **Tel: 03 5495 1055** **Fax: 03 5495 1937**

The Pyrenees Vignerons Association is not aware of any vineyards excluded from, but in close proximity to the proposed boundary not aware of the application. Neighbouring vineyards as far as we know have either been included in the region or are included in other zones and/or regions.

The Pyrenees Vignerons Association is not aware of any conflict with existing trademarks registered or pending.

See appendices 2 and 2(a) for copies of trademarks using the word Pyrenees.

Appendix 1
Viticulture Statistics 1996-97

Pyrenees Vignerons Association's CENSUS OF LAND USE AND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES IN VITICULTURE in the Pyrenees Wine Region states the total production of wine grapes for this area, as being 2737 tonnes for the 1997/98 season.

Appendix 1a
Viticulture Statistics 1996-97

Viticulture Statistics 1996-97, 1997-98, produced by the AWBC from Australian Bureau of Statistics data.

Appendix 2
Registered trademarks

Trade Mark : 426094

Word: BLUE PYRENEES ESTATE

Image:



426094

Date: 21-NOV-1994

Class: 33

Status: Registered

Kind: n/a

Goods & Services

Class: 33

Alcoholic beverages (excluding beer)

Owner/s: VDV Pty Ltd
484 Victoria Road
GLADESVILLE, 2111, NSW
AUSTRALIA

Endorsements

Registration gives no right to the separate exclusive use of the words BLUE and PYRENEES.* * It is a condition of registration that the mark will only be used in relation to goods produced or originating in the geographical area of the PYRENEES, and if applied to wines it will only be applied under conditions applicable to the geographical indication of PYRENEES.* The preceding endorsement(s) were recorded prior to commencement of the Trade Marks Act 1995.*

**Appendix 2(a)
Registered trademarks****Trade Mark : 646888****Word:** BLUE PYRENEES**Image:** none**Date:** 21-NOV-1994**Class:** 33**Status:** Registered**Kind:** n/a**Goods & Services****Class:** 33

Alcoholic beverages (excluding beer)

Owner/s: The Memorial of Sainte-Clare Pty Ltd
ACN: 004185675
4th Floor
230 Victoria Road
GLADESVILLE, 2111, NSW
AUSTRALIA

Endorsements

Registration gives no right to the separate exclusive use of the words BLUE and PYRENEES.* * It is a condition of registration that the mark will only be used in relation to goods produced or originating in the geographical area of the PYRENEES, and if applied to wines it will only be applied under conditions applicable to the geographical indication of PYRENEES.* The preceding endorsement(s) were recorded prior to commencement of the Trade Marks Act 1995.*

Appendix 3 **Land usage - Dryland pasture**

Commissioner for the environment. 1991 State of the Environment Report

Appendix 4
Soil acidity moderate to very acid

Commissioner for the environment. 1991 State of the Environment Report

Appendix 5
Published material - Traditional Usage - Brochures etc

Promotional brochures

Appendix 6
Published material - Traditional Usage - Newspapers

Newspaper clippings from various papers around Australia and overseas

Appendix 7
Published material - Traditional Usage - Books

Book enclosed

David Dunstan The Wines and Winemakers of the Pyrenees - The natural garden of Victoria. Pyrenees Vignerons Association, Melbourne 1992

Copies enclosed

Benwell W.S. Journey to Wine in Victoria 3rd Edition. Wilke & Co Ltd. Melbourne 1978

Coombe B.G. & Dry P.R. Viticulture Volume 1 Australian Industrial Publishers Pty Ltd, Adelaide 1988

Gladstones John Viticulture and Environment Winetites, Adelaide 1992

Halliday James Wines and Wineries of Victoria. Mead and Beckett Publishing, Brisbane, 1982

Halliday James Australian Wine Guide. Angus and Robertson Publishers, 1990 edition

Young Alan Australian Wines & Wineries 1983, Castle Books Melbourne, has a section headed 'Pyrenees Region' (p.115), which describes the region as we know it today.

The Australian and New Zealand Wine Industry Journal
Vol 3 number 2, August 1988

Appendix 8
Minutes of Pyrenees Vignerons Meeting, 18th Jan 1999

Appendix 9 Maps