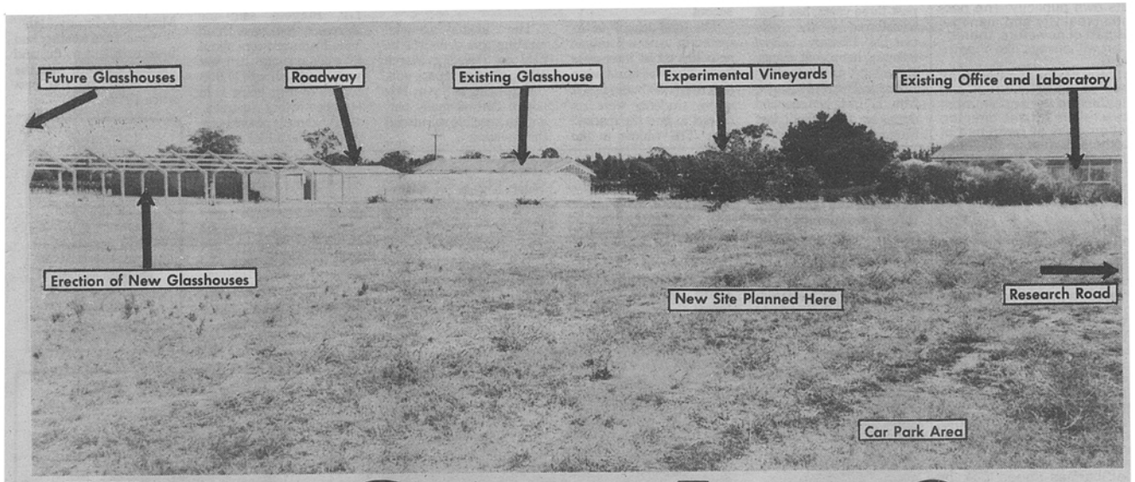

New Complex for Research Centre

A new building complex at the Viticulture Research Centre in Research Road, Nuriootpa, has been approved by State Cabinet at a cost of more than $650,000 for the Complex alone.

In a joint announcement this week, the Minister of Public Works, Dean Brown, and the Deputy Premier and Member of Kavel, Roger Goldsworthy, said that Mr. Brown's Department, Public Buildings, would call for public tenders.

The Minister of Agriculture, Ted Chapman, said that the new facility was a recognition of the importance of the Barossa Valley, one of the State's premier agricultural and wine producing areas.

The new facilities will provide the staff with good working conditions and would help improve the service to primary produce in the district.

In addition, the Public Buildings Department is providing two temperature controlled fermentation cool rooms, to conduct winemaking experiments. It is anticipated that this will operate from this vintage.

The project will comprise a new office block and alterations to an adjacent exisiting building.

The new building is to provide athe necessary facilities for staff to adequately service their clients.

Mr. Goldsworthy said: "The new building complex will enable the Department of Agriculture to vacate totally inadequate office space at the Nuriootpa Institute.

The Department of Agriculture has a District Advisory Office and a Viticultural Research Centre at Nuriootpa.

The District Advisory Office is located in leased premises in the Institute, and accomodates 5 advisory officers and a typist-receptionist.

The Barossa Viticultural Research Centre is located on the outskirts of Nuriootpa and is regarded as a centre of excellence for cool climate viticulture and services the viticultural areas in the Barossa Valley, Southern Vales, Clare-Watervale, Angle Vale and the Coonawarra-Padthaway districts in the South East.

The Centre functions as a research, resource and service centre for 14,500 hectares of viticulture in South Australia which yields grape production worth over $14 million annually.

Mr. Goldsworthy said, "The new facility will effectively integrate research and advisory staff at the one location and assist them in providing a comprehensive service to this central region of the State."

The Research Centre covers an area of 32 ha, of which 22 ha are under grape vines. There was 20 ha of original land, and 12 ha purchased from the late Mr. P.S. Maywald in 1973.

It has been proposed but not yet decided that natural gas may be installed on to the new premises.

The specific uses proposed for each area in the building are as follows:-

Reception and waiting:
For welcoming visitors and to display departmental publications offered for sale as well as other promotional material.

Conference Room:
To be used for staff meetings and conferences and industry meetings.

Library:
A good library is an essential facility for both research and advisory staff. It enables staff to keep abreast of latest developments in agriculture and horticulture.

The existing library books and journals are to be relocated to a larger space in the new building.

Offices:
Individual offices have been provided for research staff, to enable them to work without undue distraction.

Similarly advisory staff have been allotted separate offices - this is to enable them to discuss confidential matters with both farmers and agribusiness personnel.

The clerical staff will share a larger office, with some spare capacity available for visiting staff from head office on specific assigments.

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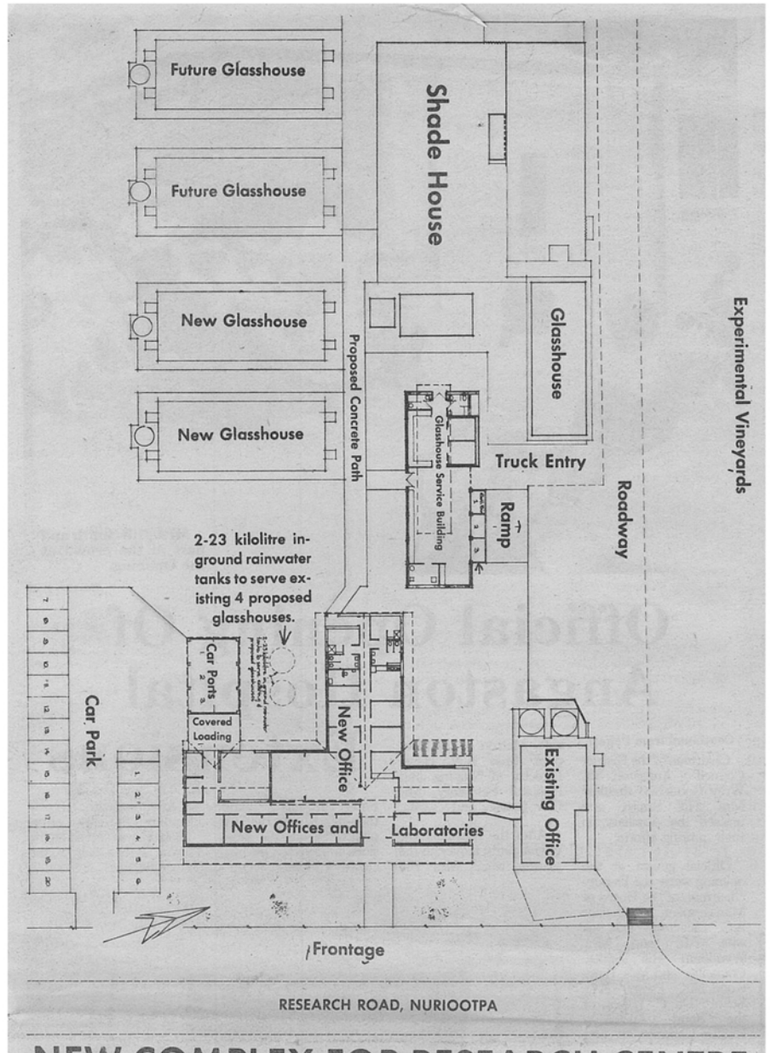


NEW COMPLEX FOR RESEARCH CENTRE

• Continued page 1

The size of the offices are in accordance with Goverment Building Standards.

Staff Room:
The staff room will provide staff with the opportunity of discussing problems of mutual concern during lunch and tea breaks.

Changerooms:
These are provided particularly for staff members involved in field work, both at the Research Centre and on growers or farmers properties.

The rooms are equipped with showers, lockers etc.

Bulk Storage Room:
This is to be used to store bulky equipment such as projectors, projection and other display screens, soil augers, survey equipment, and bulk stationary items.

Map Room:
This is to be used for the preparation and storage of soil surveys, publications and maps and also to house the duplicating equipment and stationery.

Use of existing building within the new building complex:-
The existing office is to be altered and integrated into the new building complex. It is to be connected to the main building via an enclosed passage way.

The individual areas within the old building are to be used as follows:-

Office area for Visiting Officers:
This is to be used by staff from head office who are involved in the co-ordination of state wide projects such as vine variety comparisons, locust and aphid control programmes etc.

Senior Research Staff with an overview responsibility for viticulture research will also use this office.

Laboratory 1:
This will continue to be used for the analyses of grapes from the range of research trials on and off the research centre.

Laboratory 2:
This is to be used by agronomy and soils officers for analytical work associated with soils and crops.

Chemical Store:
This is to be used to provide secure storage for toxic or inflammable solvents used in the analyses carried out in the laboratories.

Site work for two new 10m x 30 m glasshouses commenced in early November by John Falland Pty. Ltd., Nuriootpa, at a cost of approximately $148,000, and includes two growth cabinets.

Provision for a further 2 more glasshouses has been made to add to the existing one now on the property, bringing the total of glass houses to 5 when completed.

Other proposed developments are the construction of a new potting shed complex, including callus rooms for bench-grafting of rootstocks and a cold room for storage of cuttings.

A new field service complex will greatly improve the working conditions for the vineyard workers and has enabled the currently used implement shed to be converted to a working area for micro-vinification research on the chemical analysis of wines from fruit off grafted vines.

This will enable the crushing of grapes and making of wine for chemical analysis up to and including wine in the bottle.

Commonwealth Research Grant has been awarded to carry out work in this area.

The Nuriootpa Viticultural Research Centre is co-operating with Roseworthy Agricultural College, who will also be taking sample grapes for teacher training at the College.

The final proposed stage will be the building of a new office complex to bring together all officers of the Department, currently housed in three separate locations in Nuriootpa into a central district office.

This central office will provide improved access to grower and town community alike and will result in an improved, co-ordinated effort by the Department of Agriculture in the Barossa Region.

The new glasshouses will mean the Department will be able to expand its rootstock assessment work and bench grafting research.

The South Australian Department of Agriculture has been investigating the use of nematode resistant rootstocks, a necessity for the long term survival of many of out grapegrowing areas, for the last six years.

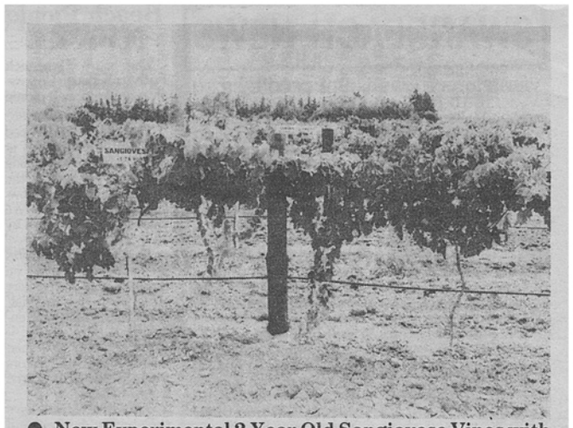
Research trials have produced valuable data on vine yield and small lots of wines have been made from a range of variety rootstock combinations for chemical analysis.

While small lot experimental wines are of value to the researcher they have only a limited use to the winemaker and the only way the industry will ever be able to arrive at a rational conclusion on the value of a particular rootstock for South Australia is to establis a large test planting of vines on rootstocks to produce sufficient fruit to be processed by a commercial winemaker and the resulting wine compared with wines from ungrafted vines.

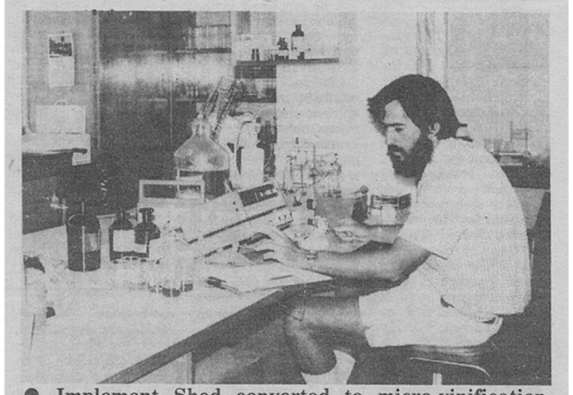
In an unique arrangement with several wineries in the Barossa Valley, including the Barossa Co-operative Winery, the Department has embarked on this large test planting assessment programme.

Over the coming years test plantings of rootstock/scion combinations will be planted for commercial assessment.

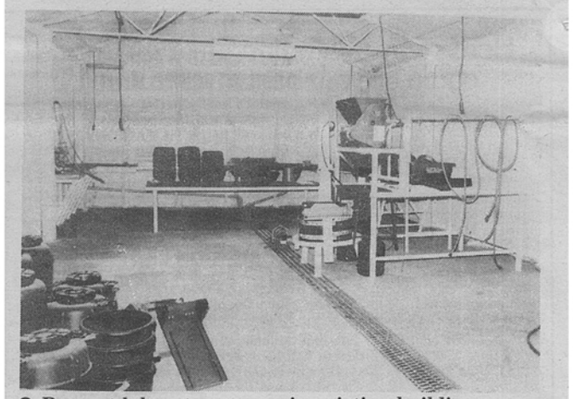
Each planting will be large enough to produce 50-60 tonnes (2-3 ha) of fruit that the participating winery can process in a similar manner to the rest of the fruit it handles.



● New Experimental 2 Year Old Sangiovese Vines with heavy crop.



● Implement Shed converted to micro-vinification working area.



● Present laboratory space in existing building.

This will allow a valid comparison between wine from grafted vines and wine from ungrafted vines.

The first assessment area of 2,500 Cabernet Sauvignon grafted onto Ramsey (Salt Creek) will be planted in 1980.

The new glasshouses will mean that in any one propagation season sufficient numbers of grafted vines will be produced for several test plantings and this will enable a much earlier assessment of the various scion/rootstock combinations envisaged.

The large degree of environmental control in the glasshouses will mean that all the grafted material will be produced by "benchgrafting".

This procedure enables large numbers of grafted vines to be produced in any one propagation season and at lower cost than those produced by green grafting or budding.

Although the success rate for grafts is currently 80-90%, the new facilities will enable further research to improve these techniques and extend these techniques to growers and nurserymen who wish to produce their own grafted vines.

All interested persons are invited to attend and inspect new varieties of grapes, which have been planted in the last 12 months and are already bearing crops.

Appointments can be made by Phoning 62 1355.