

# \$ 1/2 Million Extensions to Barossa Viticulture Research Centre, at Nuriootpa

Over \$1/2 million in extensions and new plant has recently been added to Barossa Viticultural Research Centre, at Nuriootpa. The biggest part of this expansion has been made with a new extension of about 23 yards to the present Research Centre building.

Mr Andrew Michelmore, District Agronomist and Senior District Officer with the Department of Agriculture, said his department had been aiming at upgrading the facilities for some years. He said with the new extensions, the Centre would be able to offer better facilities and more time will be available for working. All staff will now be working together, instead of in separate areas. Mr Michelmore previously used Nuriootpa S.M. Hall as his office and other staff worked in part of the old Research building. Now the old Research building has been converted into an entirely research area. Former office staff will now use the new area.

The new extensions comprise of new offices conference room and library; reception area; mapping room; store room; sick bay room; paraplegic toilet; men's and ladies' toilet; cleaner's room; shower room. A door to the paraplegic toilet has been specially designed to open outwards. A time delay is built in so that the door does not shut quickly.

Provision has been allowed for two further staff members in offices and 3 staff members in research area. At the end of the new extension is a glass wall, designed for further extensions in the future if needed. It is believed an official opening will be made in May this year. Plans for the extensions were first

drawn up in 1965.

Mr Richard Cirami, Senior Viticulture Research Officer, has recently joined the staff, having previously worked with the Northfield Research Laboratory.

Mr Michelmore said with better laboratories at Barossa Viticulture Centre staff will be able to give better information to local farmers.

Pasture work previously handled at Northfield will now be done at the Centre with ease. The new conference room facilities will be made available for growers' meetings. More scientific equipment is still to come for laboratories.

Prints by Australian artists will be displayed around the reception

area.

## New Machines

One of the Centre's prized new machines is an Ion Chromatograph which is used for anion and cation analysis. It will do water analysis and complete grape juice analysis as well as experimental wine lots, such as root stock trials, irrigation trials and growth regulation investigations.

The machine will be available to research officers at Loxton who do a lot of water analysis as part of the River Murray salinity investigation. The machine also has the capability of doing malate and tartrate demonstrations, automatically or grape juice and experimental wine lots.

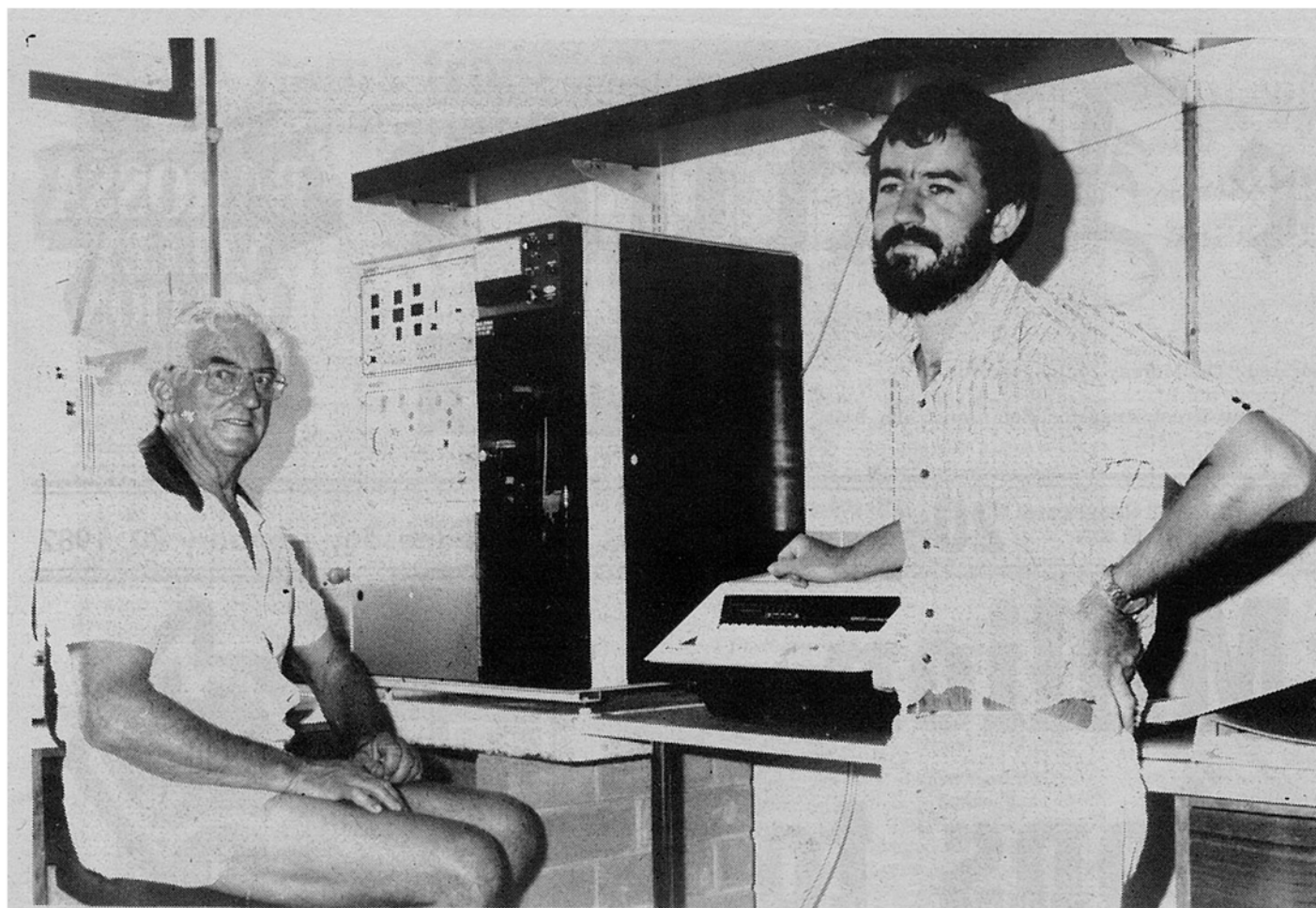
lots.

Malate and tartrate levels are important criteria in the selection of new wine grape varieties for the grape growing industry. The whole process is a fully automatic system and the machine can be used for unattended operation throughout the night if necessary.

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## THIS WEEK'S JOKE

A man, to his daughter's hippie boy friend: "For someone who refuses to live by the clock, it's amazing the way you always get here at mealtimes."



Mr Andrew Michelmore, Dist. Agronomist and Senior Dist. Officer shown with Mr Michael McCarthy, Viticultural Research Officer, with the new Ion Chromatograph and print-out machine in the background, at Barossa Viticultural Research Centre.

## \$1/2 Million Extensions at B.V. Research Centre

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It takes only 18 minutes for a complete analysis, all automatically handled for malate and tartrate. There are only 12 of these machines in Australia and the one at Nuriootpa is the first one to be used for agricultural research.

Viticulture Research officer and machine operator, Mr Michael McCarthy, said before the Ion Chromatograph was installed, no-one at the Centre was able to accurately measure malate and tartrate.

With this device another measurement will be added in grape varieties and will assist in vineyard management.

## New Phone Number

New phone number for Barossa Viticulture Research Centre will be 62 1355. People will still be able to get through to the Centre on 62 1899. However, the old number of 62 2220 is no longer working.



The photograph above shows the new extensions at Barossa Valley Viticultural Research Station, Nuriootpa.