



# JTC Newsletter



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## Winter 2011

Welcome to the first newsletter with our new name and logo.

Harvest 2011 is now behind us and we can all look back on a good growing year that produced good crops of excellent quality fruit.

We work in an exciting industry that produces a product that typifies the clean green image of our country and proudly takes "Product of New Zealand" to many consumers throughout the world. Although times have not been easy for many of us we need to keep reminding ourselves that this is not forever, markets will improve as our product continues to reach out to more wine drinkers every day.

We are confident in our industry, we believe investment in modern equipment and keeping up to date with new technology is the way we need to move forward. We have invested

heavily this past year in more equipment to maintain our efficiency, and to meet our obligations to our clients.

Along with the investment in equipment, we have also made a significant investment in our identity, changing our name to help reflect our place in the industry, a new logo, and launching our new website.

Our new look is all about our ability to do the best possible job in a practical efficient manner and we are very lucky in having a loyal and stable staff to assist us. We are sure you, our clients and associates, will see our new look as professional and full of confidence in the future of our industry.



*Winter in the Vineyard*

## Technical Tips

There has been some interesting research on Pinot noir presented at the latest 'Grape Day' seminar. Dr. Jeff Bennett discussed the variation that results in bunch composition when shoulders are left on the bunch. This research showed that shoulders can be as much as 10 days behind the main bunch in maturity. This can have a vast impact on wine quality however, removing shoulders is a time consuming task. Jeff's research showed that spur pruning Pinot noir can limit the shoulder production on the bunch. Spur pruned vines had no

shoulders on the apical bunches and 25% less shoulders on the basal bunches. Spur pruning is not as costly as cane pruning although vines should be set up specifically for spur pruning in the first season to ensure good position of the spur sites. Also there are other factors to consider such as site vigour. On vigorous sites the benefits from minimal shoulder production may be outweighed by the need to heavily shoot thin and increased bunch tightness which may result in disease pressure.



*Pinot noir bunch with small shoulder*

## What's New?

**Winery intakes have become more demanding in recent years, so we have also needed to increase the efficiency of our harvesting**



*Visfleet information on the iPhone*

Our new website, [www.jtcviticulture.co.nz](http://www.jtcviticulture.co.nz) was launched in February, locally designed and produced. We believe it complements our professional image and that it will be a good source of information. Watch this space, as we continue building on this initial stage.

More exciting news is that we had eight self-propelled Gregoire harvesters in the team for this vintage. Vintage Harvesters commenced grape harvesting in 1997 with one self-propelled and one tow behind harvester working over 15 hours each day. Over the years we have steadily grown to enable us to meet the demands of the industry.

One of the keys to a successful business is organisation and communication, and to assist with our increased fleet, we have invested in cutting edge technology using “iPhones” as data transfer ports. You may remember Sam Morgan of Trademe fame – he and his team have developed a program called ‘visfleet’.

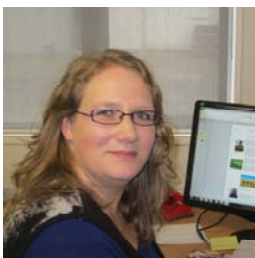
There are many advantages to this new scheduling system, which include the ability to send site specific information and changes in job specifications to any operator in the field. The operator of the particular machine can read their instructions, accurately record the commencement and completion times, and capture any information about the job, including repairs or maintenance that needs to be done on the vineyard. This information is captured and secured ‘real-time’, and can be passed back to the office for analysis or further job instructions. It helps us maintain better traceability, and will benefit the vineyard by streamlining systems for SWNZ accountability.

Also added to the fleet in the last six months are two SprayPro recycling sprayers, which some of you may have seen during the last season in your vineyards. They are providing excellent spray coverage whilst minimising drift and loss of chemical to the environment.



*Vintage Harvesters 2011 fleet*

## Who's New?



*Nicky, in her office*

We welcomed Nicky Black to the team in early March. She will work in administration as Jason's right hand person.

Nicky arrived just in time for harvest, so it was ‘baptism by fire’ for her, she coped well and is quickly learning about growing grapes.

Nicky is a born and bred Marlburian, who

recently returned to the region from Christchurch, and is enjoying being back home, catching up with friends, and having the Sounds on her doorstep.

For many clients contacting the office, Nicky will be the person answering phone.

## What's Happening Now?

What a great summer it was, the La Nina weather pattern was extremely strong hence the floods in Australia, luckily here on the Wairau Plain we missed most of the bad weather, although the rain bomb that caused a raging flood in parts of the Sounds, Canvastown and Havelock was a close call.

Otherwise it was generally excellent for good growing throughout the season, botrytis events were present but thankfully short lived. It was an unusual season in many ways, the normal dry brown grass was replaced with a green sward, Marlborough has never looked so green for so long.

Our work force shrinks over winter as some of our young men seek experience in other parts of the world, but they will be back for spring. The overwinter team spent the last month cleaning and stripping the harvesters for storage away until next harvest, and also spent time generally maintaining our equipment ready for the new season.

Pruning is now well underway throughout the district. Andrew and Jared have the Klima stripper in full use, which will keep them busy for the next couple of months. Likewise John is out stripping away with the Langlois stripper.



*Gregoire leaf plucking, early summer*

## Winter Services

Some of the lesser-known services we have available are:

- Lime and Fertiliser Spreading
- Klima vine stripping
- Langlois vine stripping
- SWNZ accreditation assistance
- Vineyard assessments
- Fertiliser recommendations
- Rock rolling
- Seed drilling
- Post driving, with our new side driver
- Mulching
- Winter trimming



*Klima vine stripper in action*

Melissa and Hamish are a valuable resource when reviewing the previous season, or looking forward to the coming season. If we can help you in any way, please give us a call.

## Contact us



*SprayPro Recycling Sprayer, early spring 2010*

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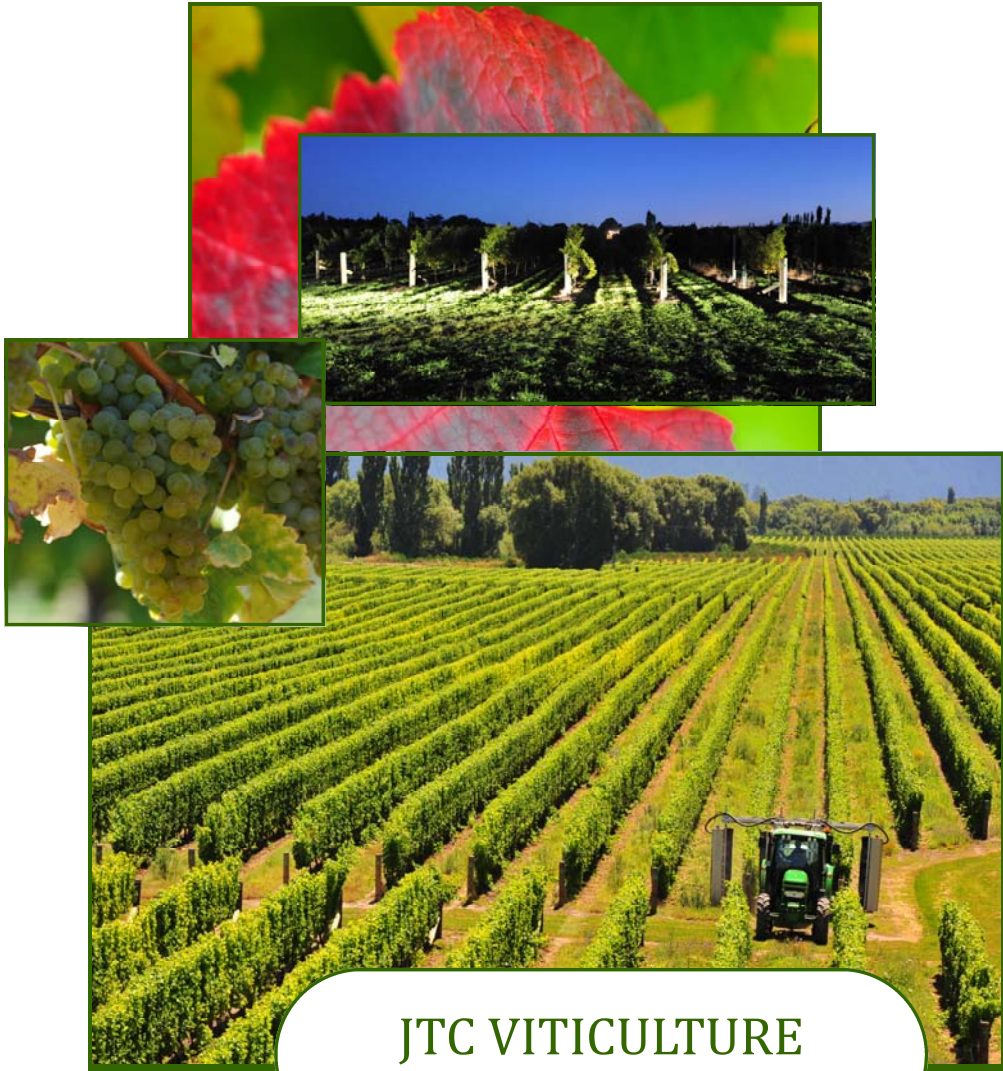
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# JTC VITICULTURE

Solutions for Viticulture