

# Successful field day for Life Force

There was an excellent response to the Life Force Vineyard field day held on April 10 at the Kalleske property in Greenock.

More than 70 people attended, some travelling from Clare Valley, Adelaide Hills and McLaren Vale.

The field day focused on methods to produce grapes for premium quality wine.

Mr Adrian Lawrie from Lawrie & Co. Sustainable Agriculture, emphasised the importance of building good soil structure and adding humates with the minerals that soil analysis show limiting.

Mr John Kalleske shared his experiences with the biological farming

methods they use in their vineyard and demonstrated the methods he uses in producing a specialist Vineyard Blend fertiliser as a service to other vignerons.

Mr Phil Barnett from Australian Perry Agriculture Laboratories spoke to the participants in relation to soil testing and the science factors in the biological farming methods.

According to Ms Leticia Lawrie of Lawrie & Co. Sustainable Agriculture, those that attended showed a lot of interest. "People seem willing to find out about new methods to improve their grape quality," she said.

"Several families have applied the Life Force programme to

more than 150 hectares in the Barossa Valley. These families have had a long history with grape growing and have had a lot of success, which led to the great interest and large number of people that attended," she said.

Mr Justin Willoughby, field liaison officer with Southcorp Winery, spoke about cover crops including permanent swards and emphasised the benefits to soil structure.

A similar field day is planned at McLaren Vale on May 12. It is expected that a field day with a similar format may be held in the Barossa later in the year or in 2004.



At the Life Force Vineyard field day held at Greenock on April 10 were from left: Adrian Lawrie, Jana Schiller, Tammy Pfeiffer, John Kalleske, Amanda Mader and Marcus Schulz.