

Voting open for GPSA DIRECTORS

MEMBERS of Grain Producers SA can vote on who represents them on the organisation's board with five nominations for four board director positions received last week.

The nominees are:

- **Stephen Ball, Riverton**
- **David Brown, Naracoorte**
- **Wade Dabinett, Parilla**
- **David Malpas, Lucindale**
- **Max Wilksch, Yeelanna**

Chairman Garry Hansen was the only nomination for chairman and so is elected unopposed. Directors continuing for another year include Brett Roberts and Peter Polkinghorne. Directors Mark Schilling and Malcolm Sargent have retired from the board.

Board directors serve a two

KEY POINTS

- Director nominees announced
- Only members can vote in election
- Voting forms posted to members or on request
- Membership is free, contact GPSA

year term. The GPSA Constitution outlines the board can include up to six directors plus a chairman, all of whom are elected by GPSA members. The board may then appoint two independent directors.

Chief executive Darren Arney says the higher number of nominations than grower elected board positions available reflects a solid interest from producers in the organisation and its advocacy work on their behalf.

"GPSA's goal is to improve the

profitability and sustainability of SA grain producers and board directors are integral to that goal, making decisions to guide the organisation's actions. We encourage all producers to have their say and elect the nominees that they believe have the skills and experience to best represent them," he said.

"The position of board member requires the commitment of attending eight meetings in Adelaide or regional South Australia and being available for telephone conferences as needed. There is also the opportunity to represent GPSA nationally on other commodity or issue groups to communicate South Australia's views at a higher level.

"Only members of GPSA are eligible to vote for directors.



ON BOARD: The 2013-14 GPSA board members - Wade Dabinett, Garry Hansen, CEO Darren Arney, Peter Polkinghorne, Malcolm Sargent (back), Brett Roberts, Mark Schilling, Gary Flohr and Max Wilksch.

All grain producers in SA are eligible to be members, which is free. So if you are unsure whether or not you are a member of GPSA, please contact the office as soon as possible."

Voting forms have been posted to members this week or are available from the GPSA office. Members can return

their vote at GPSA's Annual General Meeting on Thursday, September 11, at the Adelaide Festival Centre or post, fax or email to independent returning officer William Buck Chartered Accountants, as per instructions on the voting form.

• **Details: Grain Producers SA, 1300 734 884, info@grainproducerssa.com.au**

NOMINEES

Stephen Ball

Stephen owns and operates a family farm with his wife Nikki Hannaford at Riverton in the Mid North. He has been a director for Grain Growers Limited for the past three years and was a member of the Agricultural Reference Group of Australia during 2011-12. Stephen was a Nuffield Scholar in 2010, a former director and chairman of the South Australian No Till Farmers Association, and the inaugural chairman of Conservation Agricultural Alliance of Australia and New Zealand. He is now a steering group member of the Mid North High Rainfall Zone cropping group. Stephen believes GPSA has an important role in advocating for all grain growers in SA, to make the most of research and development opportunities and to help make SA grain producers more profitable and sustainable.

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irrigated certified seed to broadacre irrigated and dryland coarse grain crops. He has a Bachelor of Agricultural Science and spent six years with the Advisory Board of Agriculture and has been a member of the South East soil and water boards. He is a board member of the AW Howard Trust for 12 years now, and a committee member of the GRDC's Regional Cropping Solutions Network Irrigated Zone. He operates an agronomy consultancy business. David believes GPSA should be the first place that governments go to on issues in agriculture as the pre-eminent body to represent farmers. Grain producers should be educated that GPSA is there for them.

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Wade Dabinett

Wade returned to his family farm at Parilla three years ago and looks after the grain growing side of the business, which includes 3500 hectares of cereals, 300ha of potatoes and "too many sheep". With experience in the grain trading, storage and handling industry, he is keen for other growers, particularly young farmers, to

gain skills in grain selling and business management. He says he sees a great future in the grain industry, and would like to see more farmers engaged with GPSA and young farmers upskilled to be part of the future of our industry. He would like to see GPSA continue to push for efficiencies in the supply chain and believes growers need a strong and functional grain advocacy group in GPSA to ensure they are effectively represented in the supply chain debate.

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David Malpas

David operates a mixed farming enterprise with his wife Angela, near Lucindale in the South East, comprised of cropping, sheep and cattle. He is a past member of the SAFF Grains Committee and former treasurer. David has been a member of Grain Producers SA since its inception and would like to see it continue to grow as the voice of the levy-payers. He believes grain producers need an efficient and competitive environment to be able to remain profitable as a farming enterprise.

He sees GPSA having a large role in this as the voice of South Australian grain producers, to represent them as a united body to business and governments to drive change for the industry.

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Max Wilksch

Max is a partner in a family farming business at Yeelanna on the Lower Eyre Peninsula, with his wife Julie and sons Randall and Jordan. The business is dedicated to grains production and long-term sustainability. Previously he has represented grain growers as a director of ABB Grain and as a member of SAFF Grains Council and has been a fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. He insists that all SA grain producers deserve a focused, trustworthy advocacy and that GPSA is the vehicle for that fast. He is keen to continue with a role in ensuring that existing agriculture has priority over other prospective or invasive land use.

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Grain Producers SA AGM

Thursday, September 11
Adelaide Festival Centre, North Terrace
RSVP 1300 734 884, info@grainproducerssa.com.au

GPSA chairman Garry Hansen says the AGM is a prime opportunity for growers to have their say on the issues affecting their farm's productivity and profitability.

"State Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries Leon Bignell will open the event while Shadow Minister David Ridgway will speak later in the day," he said.

"Other key issues on the agenda include Viterra storage and handling for 2014-15 with Tim Krause and continued international grain market access with Tony Russell.

"We have allowed plenty of time for discussion so if growers want to raise any issue for GPSA's attention, this is the forum to do so.

"GPSA is your voice to government, the community and industry and operates on our behalf to influence policy and decisions made beyond the farm gate which impact our businesses. We encourage growers to be involved."

• **Details: www.grainproducerssa.com.au**

This advertisement is e-Reader enhanced

Something in the SA grains industry you'd like changed?

Then have your say at GPSA's Annual General Meeting.

When: Thursday 11 September 2014

Where: Adelaide Festival Centre

Time: 9.30am - 3.30pm, followed by networking drinks

Please RSVP for catering

SPEAKERS

- Leon Bignell– Minister for Agriculture, Food & Fisheries
- David Ridgway – Shadow Minister for Agriculture
- Tim Krause – General Manager of S&H, Viterra
- Jim Heaslip – Chairman SAGIT

Vote today

There are five nominations for four vacant member-elected director positions. Voting forms have been mailed to grower-members or are available from GPSA by request. If you're not a member, contact GPSA. Membership is free.

Grain Producers SA

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