

Three directors fill vacancies for GPSA board

GPSA welcomed three board directors who filled three vacant positions and farewellled Ceduna producer Peter Polkinghorne, who has retired from the board, at the Annual General Meeting on Friday.

Adrian McCabe Hamley Bridge, Dion Woolfoord, Buckleboo, and Jared Sampson, Warramboos, were appointed at the GPSA AGM on Friday 11 August, held as part of the GROWING SA Conference at Hahndorf. Adrian and Dion were appointed to the board in 2016 and 2017 respectively and have since stood for election, while Jared Sampson is a new director.

GPSA Chairman Wade Dabinett congratulated the three new directors and thanked Peter for his service.

"Peter has been a GPSA board director for five years, bringing a valuable perspective from the West Coast to the board table. He has been a passionate advocate for the Thevenard Port providing a professional and high capacity service to the region's growers."

The three directors include:

Adrian McCabe

Adrian is a grain grower at Hamley Bridge, where he crops wheat, canola, beans and durum.

His family has been farming in the Mid North since 1956 and also farms on the western slopes of New South Wales. He is a board member of the Southern Durum Growers Association, a member of Fat Farmers and a previous member of the SA Farmers Federation. Adrian believes there are a number of key



issues for producers which are being tackled by Grain Producers SA. These include the need to invest in country road infrastructure, reduce spiralling grain handling costs, gain access to GM crops and further promote the grains industry as a major contributor to the state's economy.

Dion Woolford - Buckleboo

Dion farms with his wife Chelsea and his parents near Kimba, cropping 4500 hectares to mostly wheat, barley and vetch for feed and running 5000 sheep under the prefix Karawatha Park. Dion says he is excited by the opportunity to work with the GPSA Board because the issues that GPSA deals with through its policy and advocacy role affects producers throughout SA. He is keen to contribute to the broad range of issues which GPSA covers, such as how supply chain costs affect farmers and the importance of machinery movement and the capacity to operate



road trains on EP. Another important issue he believes in is regulation around access to technology, such as genetically modified crops to help boost productivity.

Jared Sampson

After spending time on the other side of the fence working for Elders and Pasture Genetics, Jared returned to the family farm at Warramboos in 2012, growing wheat and barley and running a self-replacing Merino flock. He says GPSA provides the opportunity to contribute to a number of key issues facing the grains industry, particularly land access and transparency of the process involved, which is of considerable importance to not only our local community but the whole industry. With a mix of youth and experience, GPSA will hopefully continue to offer strong advocacy and representation for all growers, while encouraging the next generation to take a proactive approach in developing and promoting our industry.



Want to grow industrial hemp?

Draft industrial hemp regulations have been developed and are open for public consultation through Primary Industries and Regions SA. The purpose of a regulatory framework is to establish a licensing scheme for growers and processors, and to determine strict conditions for the cultivation and processing of industrial hemp.

The regulations are currently open for public consultation. Growers can review the draft regulations for industrial hemp and fees and provide feedback via the PIRSA website.

Growers interested in growing industrial hemp commercially or participating in research trials can register online at www.pir.sa.gov.au/primary_industry/industrial_hemp

Joel, Dion win GPSA's supply chain scholarships

Joel Heinicke, Pinnaroo, and Dion Trezona, Petina, Eyre Peninsula, attended the Australian Grains Industry Conference in Melbourne last week as winners of GPSA's two annual scholarships.

The scholarships are valued at \$2500 each and to win them, Joel and Dion had to outline their experiences, study or opinion of the grain industry supply chain and why they would benefit from attending the conference.

Joel grew up on his family property at Pinnaroo, producing wheat, barley, canola, lupins, vetch, triticale and rye, running 1000 Merino ewes for meat and wool. After studying at Cleve Area School under its highly regarded agriculture program, he completed a Certificate 3 in Agriculture in 2009 and returned to Pinnaroo to continue growing the family business with his parents.

In 2013, he embarked on a 12-month exchange program with Agriventure and travelled to Manitoba, Canada, to work on a cropping and intensive cattle

feedlot. He says it was a great learning experience and he gained insight into how they produce and store their grains, as well as the different marketing options and techniques they have.

"Since returning home to the farm in 2014, I have taken on more of a role in the running of the business," he said. "As producers of such a vast variety of products, that differ in quality and quantity from year to year, our markets can vary quite largely.

"We supply to the export market, local domestic market and use some for our own livestock. In the past, majority of our grain has been sold through the port system. However, as we are growing and storing more grain on-farm with costs of production rising, and variability in the supply chain, it is becoming even more vital that as farmers we know and understand how to access and target the market and what the market wants from us.

Dion Trezona is a fifth generation farmer in the Streaky Bay area. He studied at Cleve Area School and



GPSA Board Member Dion Woolford with Joel Heinicke and Dion Trezona.

completed a Certificate 2 and 3 in Agriculture.

He says the grain industry has a solid market outlook but efficient storage and handling is vital for West Coast farmers because they are an export-only market.

"Grain will always be required – whether it's grain to produce meat or grain to produce beer and bread. On EP, we don't have another market to get grain to economically or efficiently to warrant building large on-farm storage to store ourselves," he said. "The port at Thevenard is second in the state to a number of tonnes that are loaded on boats year-round. Gypsum, wheat, salt and mineral sands make it extremely busy yet it is a shallow port."

SafeWork releases plan for agricultural WHS

Last month, SafeWork SA launched its Agriculture Industry Action Plan 2017-19. It outlines 10 key focus areas over the next two years to reduce work injuries across SA.

The key focuses include developing the following: Physical and Mental Health and Wellbeing Program, Safety Leadership and Culture Program, Youth Workers Strategy, and a quad bike safety campaign. The plan is available on the SafeWork website at www.safework.sa.gov.au

SafeWork SA offers free adviser visits by contacting them on 1300 365 255. The Farmers Guidebook to Work Health and Safety is the industry's partnership manual for best practice WHS on-farm. It is available online at www.grainproducerssa.com.au under 'industry information'.

Flinders Ports update on Thevenard

Flinders Ports has released a stakeholder update regarding remedial works at the Port of Thevenard.

The report outlines that work has started and the jetty and wharf areas are now deemed to be construction sites, therefore, access to the jetty will remain closed for all users other than construction employees until further notice.

Flinders Ports is acutely aware of the importance of recommencing ship loading operations as soon as possible. We are of course taking all of the necessary steps required to ensure that the works are undertaken safely. Works at the Port is focused on three main areas:

- **Preliminary works:** Temporary support structures have been installed to provide additional stability to the structure and ensure that work to the jetty and conveyor supports can proceed safely.

- **Short term solution:** Flinders Ports has been working tirelessly with project partners WGA and Maritime Constructions to design and implement a short term solution to allow ship loading operations to recommence as soon as possible without compromising safety. Depending on favourable weather conditions, it is estimated that ship loading operations will be able to recommence during the first week of October.

- **Long term solution:** Design work continues to develop a solution to maintain the long term health of the jetty to minimise any further delays in future, and also provide the community with a stable and safe piece of infrastructure that will continue to be a part of the local economy for a long time to come.

More information: Vincent Tremaine, CEO, Flinders Port Holdings or Stewart Lammin, General Manager, Flinders Ports – 08 8447 0611.