

## Wade takes over the reins as GPSA chairman



*Parilla grain producer Wade Dabinett will take over as chairman of Grain Producers SA at the AGM next week.*

**Parilla grain producer Wade Dabinett will be the new chairman of Grain Producers SA, taking over from inaugural chairman Garry Hansen who has retired from the position.**

Wade joined the GPSA board in May 2014 and has been vice-chairman since the 2015 AGM. He also chairs GPSA's Transport and Supply Chain Sub-Committee.

As a young grain producer, Wade says he is hoping his involvement in the

GPSA Board and now as chairman will encourage other young producers to consider being part of the organisation and its sub-committees.

"I think there's a missing generation of farmers – those in their 30s and 40s – who aren't engaging in advocacy anymore," he said.

"Advocacy has been the poor cousin to research and development and I certainly think it warrants more time and investment. Hopefully I can encourage those guys who have been

focused on production and farming systems groups in the past to become involved in advocacy and post-farm gate issues which impact all producers.

"I have had an introduction to what is involved in my position as vice-chairman and through being mentored by Garry. I'm at a stage of life where I can commit the time to a role such as chairman and I'm looking forward to getting started and working with growers across the state."

Wade returned to his family farm in 2011 to help run the growing business, including 4500 hectares of crops as well as potatoes and livestock, with his brother Nick and sister-in-law Emma and parents Russell and Leanne.

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.

Wade takes over the role at the GPSA Annual General Meeting, to be held on Wednesday, August 10, at the EP Field Days. Garry has stepped back to be a director of GPSA. He was re-elected in the recent nomination process, along with Stephen Ball, Riverton, and David Malpas at Lucindale.

**More from retiring chairman Garry Hansen in next month's newsletter**

## In Short...

### Report challenges anti-GM status

The Productivity Commission released its draft report *Regulation of Australian Agriculture* last month.

The report's scope is to inquire into the regulatory burden imposed on Australian farming businesses.

GPSA welcomed one of the report's findings – that some regulations lack a sound policy justification and should be removed. The example cited relevant to SA is the moratorium on growing genetically modified crops. The report said there were "questionable, unclear or conflicting regulatory objectives" around SA's GM moratorium. In particular, it challenged "the regulation for GM organisms

for marketing purposes when there is evidence that industry (both in states without regulatory restrictions and internationally) can successfully manage the co-existence of GM and non-GM products. There is also little evidence of GMO-free marketing benefits at the bulk trade level".

**Details: [www.pc.gov.au/inquiries/current/agriculture](http://www.pc.gov.au/inquiries/current/agriculture)**

# Visit the Grain Producers SA and Livestock SA marquee at Cleve

**GPSA AGM**  
**Wednesday,**  
**August 10, 3-5pm**  
**EP Field Days**  
**Pavilion**

**Grain Producers SA and Livestock SA are hosting a marquee at the Eyre Peninsula Field Days next week, offering a one-stop shop for industry representation.**

The marquee will host representatives from Primary Producers SA, the SA Grain Industry Trust, SafeWork SA, Ag Bureau, Ag Excellence Alliance and Partners in Grain.

GPSA will be hosting grains industry leaders on Wednesday, August 10, to enable producers to drop in and talk about important issues.

## Marquee visitors include:

- > **Andrew Weidemann, Chairman, Grain Producers Australia**  
GPSA is a member of Grain Producers Australia, the association representing Australia's broadacre, grain, pulse and oilseed producers at the national level. He is a mixed grain farmer in the Wimmera region of Victoria.
- > **Malcolm Jackman, CEO, South Australian Fire and Emergency Services Commission**  
SAFECOM is the organisation to which the CFS, SES and MFS report. Growers would recognise Malcolm from his five years at the helm of Elders Limited.

During his tenure, he initiated a significant business restructure and change in strategic direction.

- > **Simone Reinertsen, National Heavy Vehicle Regulator**  
The NHVR is Australia's independent regulator for all vehicles over 4.5 tonnes gross vehicle mass. As stakeholder specialist, Ms Reinertsen engages closely with industry, local government, jurisdictions and association to promote involvement and education around the Heavy Vehicle National Law.
- > **Richard Simonaitis, CEO, Australian Export Grains Innovation Centre**  
Mr Simonaitis has broad experience in export-focused commodities industries, having worked in logistics and product quality roles in the iron ore industry and in senior management roles in the grain industry at CBH across logistics, operations and marketing and trading.
- > **Scott Ashby, CEO, Primary Industries and Regions SA**  
Prior to PIRSA, Mr Ashby was Chief Executive of the Premier's Murray Darling Basin Plan Taskforce. He has previously held the positions of Chief Executive in both the Department for Water and the Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation.
- > **Michael Nash, Grains Researcher, SARDI Entomology**  
Dr Nash is a senior researcher with SARDI. He is currently working on projects aimed at controlling slugs and snails as well as other pests. His most recent work has been on identification and treatment of the exotic pest Russian Wheat Aphid.
- > **Tony Russell, Grains Industry Market Access Forum**  
As executive manager of GIMAF, a forum of peak industry bodies in the grains, seed and fodder sectors, Mr Russell is responsible for coordinating and directing grains, seeds, fodder, nut industry interests in respect to trade market access issues.
- > **Kathy Ophel-Keller, SARDI**  
Dr Ophel-Keller oversees a research division of 130 staff covering applied research on plant health, plant biosecurity, plant molecular genetics, climate risk management, water use efficiency and crop agronomy.

**Details:** Visit the GPSA and Livestock SA marquee at site 309d, on the corner of 8th street and C road.

## Young growers get insight into global grains industry

**Young grain producers Ben Francis, Maitland, and Chad Nickolls, Pinnaroo, attended the Australian Grains Industry Conference last month as recipients of GPSA's two scholarships.**

For three years in a row, GPSA has offered sponsorship to attend AGIC, which attracts more than 800 people and brings together the Australian and global grain industry to network while providing the latest information on international grain markets.

Ben, who is involved with his family farming operation Loudounbrae Farming on the central Yorke Peninsula, says the conference was valuable in seeing what happens after the crop leaves the farm and understanding global industry issues.



*Pictured at AGIC 2016 are Pinnaroo grower Chad Nickolls, GPSA chairman Garry Hansen and Maitland grower Ben Francis.*

"We have a changing market, it is continually evolving," he said. "For a long time, we just thought of Asia as the growing demographic and being so close would allow us to be the perfect provider of grain. But now with cheaper cost of production elsewhere and the cheaper sea freight, we are going to have limited access to those markets."

"We can't just rely on the fact we grow good grain, we have to brand our grain for the world."

For Chad, who farms with his family in the SA Mallee, the conference was an opportunity to hear about another side of the industry.

"The theme was that we've just come out of the biofuel decade and now the next decade will be the protein decade," he said. "It will be pulses and the higher protein grains that will be highly sought after."

"With the Black Sea countries which have a lower cost of production, we can't compete with them on price, so we need to differentiate ourselves as a quality grain producer. We need to be producing a higher quality product that the market wants and is willing to pay for."