

Producers urged to nominate as a director



The GPSA Board, pictured at the YP Field Days last year, includes Peter Polkinghorne, chairman Garry Hansen, Stephen Ball, vice-chairman Wade Dabinett, David Malpas, Max Wilksch and CEO Darren Arney. Absent - Brett Roberts.

Grain producers are being encouraged to consider standing for the board of GPSA when nominations are called next month.

There are five director positions including the chairman's position up for election. These positions are held by incumbents David Malpas, Stephen Ball, Wade Dabinett, Max Wilksch and chairman Garry Hansen. Brett Roberts and Peter Polkinghorne were re-elected at the 2015 AGM while Andrew Goode's position continues until the first meeting after the 2017 AGM.

Yeelanna grain producer Max Wilksch will retire from the board at the next AGM and is encouraging other producers to consider what they may offer the industry through being part of GPSA.

Max was encouraged by the late Jeff Arney to nominate for the board and after considering the support he had from his peers, decided to stand.

Max says the skills a GPSA board director needs are the capacity to think independently, read widely, be articulate, develop an informed argument and then be able to defend it, and keep on working for a common cause if your viewpoint is not accepted.

"The rewards come when one can mount an argument for our position, have that argument questioned or attacked, and then conclude that under pressure, we were validated and credible," he said. "The rewards are when we make progress in stifling or preventing some proposed bureaucratic impediment, or enlightening someone in an influential place who finally sees our case, and works to assist, not to impose."

Max says GPSA works in an environment where agriculture is often neglected and some sectors of the population are ignorant of the industry's importance.

"GPSA is important because advocacy for, and defence of, our industry, has been regarded as the poor cousin to agricultural research, and the dollars have been spent on one, and not the other," he said.

"You need to be able to think from a broad industry perspective and to put your industry and its people first. If you know the state and its regions, have travelled throughout the state and beyond, and if you recognise that the vast majority of SA grain growers are bulk exporters of food commodities that feed the world, and you want to advocate for, and add your support to, that industry, if you love what you do in caring for the earth and the natural environment, and you want to make a difference for an industry that you love, then put your hand up and nominate."

Board nomination timeline

- **July 13 – Director nominations are called**
- **July 20 – Nomination period closes**
- **August 10 – Successful candidates are announced at the AGM at the EP Field Days**

SAGIT welcomes Caroline Rhodes as new Group B trustee

Experienced agribusiness professional Caroline Rhodes (pictured) has been appointed to the position of Group B Trustee with the South Australian Grain Industry Trust.

Ms Rhodes has specialised in stakeholder management and regulatory affairs during her 16-year career in agribusiness. She has held senior positions in both the corporate and government sectors, and spent six years working for State and Federal farmer representative bodies in Australia.

Minister for Agriculture Leon Bignell appointed Ms Rhodes for an initial three-year term following an extensive recruitment process.

Ms Rhodes said she was excited at the opportunity to again work with SAGIT having worked as the Trust's

Executive Officer when she was employed with the former South Australian Farmers' Federation in the early 2000s.

"As a former SAGIT Executive Officer, I share in the organisation's proud history and understand its role in championing innovation in South Australia. Trustee, I hope to work with SAGIT to further strengthen its governance arrangements and service delivery to South Australian growers, to ensure its continued success."

Ms Rhodes holds a Bachelor of Agricultural Science from the University of Adelaide, a Master of Agribusiness from the University of Melbourne and a Diploma from the Australian Institute of Company Directors. She is a graduate of the Australian Rural Leadership Program. She has a particular interest in the non-profit sector and proudly serves on the board of Foodbank South Australia and Rural Business Support.



In December 2015, she completed a three-year term as the Grain Trade Australia (GTA) nominated Director to the Board of Wheat Quality Australia Ltd, a company jointly owned by GRDC to administer Australia's wheat classification system. She has previously served as a director of Pulse Australia Ltd (2011, 2012), the Australian Grain Exporters Association (2011, 2012) and the National Grower Register Pty Ltd (2012-13).

Ag innovation report

Genetically modified crops was one of the issues being examined in the Senate Inquiry into Agricultural Innovation, which tabled its report last month 'Smart farming - inquiry into agricultural innovation'. The inquiry included recommendations to standardise the rollout of GM crops in Australia rather than state-based moratorium. GPSA CEO Darren Arney says if each state had similar access regimes, it would make grain production easier and provide certainty for seed breeders to access new technology for varieties. "The ability to have access to GM crops would lead to improved production through higher oil levels and greater flexibility in their farming systems through a better rotational mix," he said. Another recommendation was that the organic and biodynamic standards be set to have a maximum accidental presence of approved GMs of 1%, which is aligned with the European Union standard at 0.9%.

Details: View the full report at <http://bit.ly/1Lgnqul>

Disaster recovery

The State and Federal governments last month announced a grants program for producers affected by the Pinery fire to access funds for clean-up and reinstatement costs.

The Natural Disaster Assistance Scheme has grants of up to \$10,000 ex GST available to help eligible primary producer businesses. The grant is not intended to replace the need for insurance or to compensate for loss of income suffered as a result of the bushfire. The grant is not available for repairs to housing, to repair or replace non-business assets or to cover costs which have been or will be reimbursed through an insurance claim. Applications must be received before Friday, November 4, 2016

Details: Program guidelines, application forms and further information on the Natural Disaster Relief Assistance Scheme are available at the PIRSA website www.pir.sa.gov.au/pinerygrant

YP Small Business Forum

A second forum for small business owners and farmers, 'Employing staff: What you need to know' is being planned by the Department of State Development. It will be held at Central Yorke Football Club in Maitland on Monday, June 20, from 5.15pm to 8.30pm and is free. Hear about awards, minimum wages, superannuation obligations and changes, payroll/tax requirements, lodging BAS, payslips, timebooks and record keeping. Keynote speakers include Small Business Commissioner,

Australian Tax Office, Fair Work Ombudsman, SafeWork SA and Return to Work SA. Registrations are essential on 1300 742 414 or www.surveymonkey.com/r/YorkeForum

AGIC entries open

Entries for two young grain producers to be sponsored to attend the Australian Grain Industry Conference, valued at \$2500 each, close on Friday, June 3. The conference will be held in Melbourne from July 25-27. The sponsorship is a professional development opportunity for producers under 35 to develop industry networks and contacts that could benefit their farm business and gain insight into what local and international customers want from South Australian grain. To enter, applicants must be 35 or under at the time of the conference and must submit up to 400 words outlining their experiences, study or opinions on the grain industry supply chain and why they would benefit from attending the Australian Grain Industry Conference.

Details: Download an entry form at www.grainproducerssa.com.au under 'News & Information' or contact Trudy Huczko, 0499 734 001. Visit www.ausgrainconf.com for more information on AGIC.