

## New face, new skills for GPSA board

**GRAIN Producers SA will farewell Lameroo farmer Gary Flohr next month from its board of directors after his decision to retire from the organisation.**

Chairman Garry Hansen said Parilla farmer Wade Dabinett would replace Mr Flohr, enabling the board to continue its work with the full complement of members in the lead-up to the annual general meeting on September 11.

"Gary has played a vital role in establishing GPSA, even back as far as the previous SAFF grains committee, and we thank him for his commitment and contribution," Mr Hansen said.

Mr Flohr says he is proud of growers' efforts so far in establishing the organisation and believes GPSA will continue to deliver for growers.

"It's now that grower support for the organisation is firmly in place I feel as though I've done my stint and it's time for a new face and new skills to join the board," he said. "There's still plenty of issues in the industry that GPSA will continue to work on for growers and I wish the organisation and members all the best."

In joining GPSA, Mr Dabinett says the current directors need to be applauded for establishing fair and equitable representation for grain growers.



*Parilla farmer Wade Dabinett has joined the GPSA board and (inset) Gary Flohr.*

He returned to his family farm 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 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.

"All farmers strive for productivity gains in the paddock, that's what we are all geared for but we don't tend to focus

on how we maximise grain revenue," he said. "I see a great future in the grain industry, which is why I've come back to our family business when many are leaving the industry. I'd like to see more farmers engaged with GPSA and young farmers upskilled to be part of the future of our industry."

Mr Dabinett joins current directors Max Wilksch, Yeelanna, Brett Roberts, Balaklava, Mark Schilling, Kadina, Malcolm Sargeant, Crystal Brook, and Peter Polkinghorne, Ceduna.

**And the winner is ...** Growers who completed GPSA's Harvest Review Questionnaire went into the draw to win a Kestrel 3500DT weather meter. The prize was won by Scott Larwood, Kadina. Nearly 200 entries were collected and the winner drawn on Monday, April 28. Congratulations Scott!



GPSA business manager Belinda Ryan is pictured with outgoing SABAC chairman Greg Schulz, Executive Committee member Rob Wheeler, SARDI, incoming chairman Mark Modra, Port Lincoln, and University of Adelaide barley program leader Jason Eglinton.



Attending the SABAC March meeting was SAGIT trustee David Shannon, Grain Trade Australia chief executive Geoff Honey, GPSA chief executive Darren Arney, SABAC chairman Mark Modra, and Barley Australia's Andrew Gee.

## Top barley issues discussed at SABAC

**The South Australian Barley Advisory Committee's role is to address key issues around barley production and how to improve efficiencies within the marketing and supply chain.**

SABAC met in Adelaide in late March. The group has a new chairman in Mark Modra, Port Lincoln, taking over from Maitland grain grower Greg Schulz whose term had expired.

Mark says SABAC's main aim is to create close links between all players

in the barley industry so potential issues can be resolved before they become major problems.

"The group has evolved since deregulation and it is still evolving now as we bring in more industry stakeholders to improve how the group operates," Mark said. "We want to make it easy for farmers to grow barley.

"Previously, SABAC used to recommend which varieties to grow but we don't push one company's variety over another now, we pass on the information about varietal malt and agronomic characteristics. It's

about providing that information to let growers make up their own minds.

"For committee members, breeding companies may want to know what traits they should be breeding for and the answers can be found within the group."

The SABAC executive committee also includes Doug Stewart, Cargill's Joe White Maltings; Jason Eglinton, University of Adelaide; Rob Wheeler, SARDI; and Darren Arney, GPSA.

**Details:** Mark Modra, 0427 866 877, mark@modra.net

**Call for members.** SABAC is seeking two barley producers from any grain growing area of the State to be part of the group. There are two meetings a year in Adelaide where updates are provided on new and potential varieties, research, market and consumer requirements, topical seasonal issues and storage and handling logistics.

> **Contact GPSA, 08 8391 6621 or email [info@grainproducerssa.com.au](mailto:info@grainproducerssa.com.au)**

## GPSA to sponsor young growers at national conference

**GPSA will sponsor two young grain producers to attend the Australian Grains Industry Conference (AGIC) from July 28-29 in Melbourne.**

AGIC is hosted by Grain Trade Australia and is the premier, industry-hosted conference for grain market participants and service providers.

The sponsorship includes the conference registration, return airfares, travel and accommodation – all the recipients have to pay for is meals not included at the conference and travel to and from their nearest airport.

GPSA chief executive Darren Arney says each conference sponsorship is valued at \$2500.

"This is a great opportunity for two of the industry's young grain producers to gain a broader perspective of the industry's key players and make some new contacts within the supply chain," he said.

"GPSA wants to encourage the participation of young people in their industry and help build their skills by giving them exposure to the end users of their grain. Participants will be encouraged to share their experiences with the wider grain industry through GPSA."

### To enter:

- > Applicants must be 35 or under at the time of the conference and be available to travel to Melbourne on July 27 for the two-day event.
- > Applicants 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 Grains Industry Conference. This is very broad and could include on-farm operations, their own or tertiary-related study, or other observations of the supply chain.

- > Entries will be assessed by GPSA. The two applications that best articulate the entry question (above) will receive the conference sponsorship.
- > Applications close at 5pm on Tuesday, June 17, 2014.

### More information...

Download an entry form at [www.grainproducerssa.com.au](http://www.grainproducerssa.com.au) or contact Trudy Huczko, 0499 734 001. Visit [www.ausgrainsconf.com](http://www.ausgrainsconf.com) for more information on AGIC.