

Strong voice in GPSA vital to SA grain industry

By GARRY HANSEN



FINANCIAL year 2015-16 has been my last as Chairman of Grain Producers SA. My time in the role has been an outstanding highlight of my farming career. It has been an honour to be the organisation's inaugural chairman and to be part of creating a new brand for the work of the former SA Farmers Federation Grains Council in a completely new format.

While I stood down as Chairman at the AGM at Eyre Peninsula Field Days, I will continue on as a director for the next two-year term, along with reappointed board members Stephen Ball and David Malpas, independent director Andrew Goode and current board members Peter Polkinghorne, Brett Roberts and new Chairman Wade Dabinett.

GPSA has been – and continues to be – very successful and has a number of runs on the board on behalf of SA grain producers. Some of the highlights of my time as Chairman include:

- Working with bulk handlers, Grain Trade Australia and Wheat Quality Australia to upgrade the quality classification of Scout wheat from APW to AH. The upgrade equated to millions of dollars extra for SA growers.
- With the help of PPSA, approaching the State Government to develop the 90-day transport project enabling producers to identify transport hotspots around the state.
- The signing of a new SA Grain Industry Trust deed to update and modernise the current agreement and the appointment of three new group A trustees and a group B trustee.
- Representing growers in negotiations on long-term port access agreements with the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission and making changes that would help grain producers.
- GPSA working through GPA and with APVMA to develop the protocols to allow farmers to have access to local mouse bait mixing stations to use their own grain for mouse control, creating a substantial saving.
- Creating sub-committees allowing involvement from many other growers and spreading the input into policy around the state.

GPSA's Agricultural Security and Priority Committee is a key example of this and has tackled competing land use as an issue for grain production. I'd like to acknowledge the commitment of Max Wilksch, who recently retired

from GPSA, as a strong advocate on these cross-commodity issues. He is passionate about the grains industry and has put a lot of time into the ASAP Committee – it's the first time a grower organisation has been prepared to tackle the competing land use issue which has been facing farmers for many years.

In December this year, Grain Producers SA will have been established for five years, advocating for grain growers on issues impacting them beyond the farm gate. I really encourage all producers to stay in touch with the important work that GPSA and PPSA do on your behalf. It's vital that we have a strong voice working on our behalf in this state. An organisation's success depends on having contested director positions so members have choice on who represents them. GPSA administers about \$1.6 million annually so it is a responsible position in the industry and we need producers with a passion for agriculture to put their hand up and be involved.

Download Garry's full Chairman's Report in the 2015-16 Annual Report on the GPSA website.

Priority issues

Producers can win a Kestrel 3500DT weather meter by completing GPSA's 2016 Grower Priorities Survey.

Details: Complete the survey at www.surveymonkey.com/r/GrowerSurvey2016 or call the office for a printed copy.



New farmer guidebook on WHS launched at field day

SafeWork SA and Primary Producers SA commodity groups, including Grain Producers SA, launched the new *Farmers' Guidebook to Work Health and Safety at EP Field Days* last month.

The guidebook is a comprehensive and practical guide to making farms safe workplaces and has been developed to help farmers understand their legal responsibilities as well as provide practical solutions to health and safety issues to help prevent serious or fatal injury on their properties.

It contains easy-to-use proforma templates and policies with references to further resources. The guidebook covers setting up a safe workplace, plant and equipment, farm hazards and solutions, industry-specific hazards, and health and well-being.

GPSA CEO Darren Arney said the manual made addressing WHS on-farm easier for grain producers, which

is why GPSA was keen to support the initiative.

"In South Australia, 4.5 percent of the total workforce is employed in agriculture but about 19pc of workplace deaths occur on farms. It is a scary statistic and highlights the importance of work health and safety on-farm," he said.

In addition, SafeWork SA is offering free one-on-one workplace support through its new work health and safety advisory team. Mobile WHS advisers with industry experience and no inspector powers are being made available to producers so they can be comfortable and confident so ask for help.

Details: Download the new guidebook under What's New at www.grainproducerssa.com.au or contact the office for a printed or USB copy. Contact SafeWork SA to book a free adviser visit 1300 365 255.



Ungarra farmer Karen Baines pictured with SafeWork SA's Vanessa Brown, Jelena Evans and Diana Babich at EP Field Days earlier this month.

Congratulations to Karen Baines, Ungarra, on winning one of two \$10,000 Augusta Zadow Awards through SafeWork SA last month.

The award funds projects that will improve the work health and safety of working women. Karen's application included establishing a local network of farm women on Eyre Peninsula to undertake a farm safety pilot program aimed at delivering farm safety improvements, titled 'Safety groups for farm women'.

Karen will establish two groups of about six to eight farm women to work as a supportive group for 12 months – on Upper and Lower EP – implementing a farm safety system on each participant's farm.

"Participants will complete the 12-month pilot program, addressing farm safety processes and developing an action plan of further activities to continue with after the program is complete," she said.

Participation in the project is free but places are limited. Contact Karen Baines for more information on 0421 677 860.

In brief

EP Field Days

GPSA co-hosted a marquee at EP Field Days last month, engaging with grain producers from across the state. As part of the event, GPSA invited stakeholders to visit the site on August 10 to meet producers and discuss key issues. The list of guests who producers were able to meet with included Grain Producers Australia chair Andrew Weidemann, SA Fire and Emergency Services Commission CEO Malcolm Jackman, National Heavy Vehicle Regulator's Simone Reinertsen, PIRSA CEO Scott Ashby, and Grains Industry Market Access Forum's Tony Russell.

Annual General Meeting

As part of the EP Field Days, GPSA held its AGM. Wade Dabinett was elected as the new chairman while former chairman Garry Hansen gave his outgoing address. GPA chairman Andrew Weidemann updated producers on several key industry issues including glyphosate use in barley, Russian Wheat Aphid and snails in export shipments. GIMAF's Tony Russell explained the importance of continuing to build strong market access for the Australian grains industry internationally and responding to changing market conditions. SAGIT chairman Michael Treloar gave an overview of the research organisation's funding criteria and explained how grower levies are spent.

The 2015-16 Annual Report is available on the GPSA website or by contacting the office.

Member draw

The winner of the 'Win a WeberQ' member draw was **Kerry Stockman, Burra**. Congratulations!

Group I, MRL reminder

GPSA is reminding growers about the importance of adhering to late season herbicide application label recommendations to avoid exceeding maximum residue limits. Producers wanting to use Group I herbicides on their farm must have minimum qualifications as a 'prescribed chemical user'. This means training in ChemCert or equivalent as a minimum. A full list of training providers in South Australia is available on GPSA's website. Australian grain has a solid reputation with international customers for its adherence to MRLs however some markets have an extremely low or even zero tolerance to some pesticide and herbicide residues so it is essential to check the label before use.

Details: GRDC Fact Sheet on pre-harvest herbicide use, www.grdc.com.au/GRDC-FS-LateSeasonHerbicideUse