



MEDIA RELEASE – Tuesday, February 27

SEPWA Harvest Review and Dinner – Friday, March 9 at Esperance Civic Centre

The SEPWA Harvest Review theme on March 9, “Understanding our Supply Chains” showcases an excellent line-up of speakers focussing on current and future market opportunities for the region. Sponsored by the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) and GrainGrowers Ltd, the day will combine the SEPWA Annual General Meeting (AGM) and conclude with a dinner “A Taste of Esperance” at Esperance Civic Centre.

Key-note speaker, new CBH CEO Jimmy Wilson will provide insight into where the grains industry corporate will continue to head under his direction. The BHP mining chief announced late last year that his focus would be on grinding down supply chain costs and further diversifying into the supply of farm inputs and food processing assets. He joined the group in August 2017 and within months had endorsed a \$750M rationalisation of CBH grain receival networks across the state.

Intermalt General Manager, James Kirton will travel from Ho Chi Minh to share the progress of a new malt plant in southern Vietnam. Milling company, Interflour opened the \$70 M malt plant last year alongside it’s flour mill there. Interflour is jointly owned by CBH and the Indonesian conglomerate, Salim Group. The Cai Mep mill and malt plants provide unrivalled access to barley and wheat shipments of WA grain into the fast-growing South East Asian consumption of flour and beer.

Recently appointed GRDC Senior Regional Manager for WA, Charlie Thorn will provide an update on where he sees research dollars being spent in coming years. GRDC has recently gone through a restructure and is currently running an open consultation process as part of its planning for the next 5 years of Research, Development and Extension investments throughout Australia.

Newly appointed Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) Director General, Ralph Addis will talk about the future directions of Agriculture research and where DPIRD fits into that. Ralph grew up on a Cranbrook farm and spent most of his life working in Kununurra in commercial regional development before taking on the DPIRD top job last year.

Several leading DPIRD local researchers will update growers on trials programs. Mark Seymour will talk about pulses and their exciting prospects for the region; Jeremy Curry will talk on latest wheat and barley varieties and nitrogen applications; and Tom Edwards will provide insight into soils amelioration research findings in the region.

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Local Neridup farmer, Dave Cox will combine with Summit Fertilisers' Nick Donkin to talk on nitrogen use efficiency in response to the low protein levels across the Esperance Port Zone in cereals last year.

Warakirri's Condingup property manager, Con Murphy will talk on the corporate groups' bold moves to increase returns on investment with more sustainable farming practices. The group has been adopting precision agriculture technologies and utilising soil amelioration techniques to increase productivity on its farms throughout Australia.

Beaumont farmer and past Nuffield Scholar, Phil Longmire will update the crowd on his recent tours to India, Pakistan and the Ukraine. He says the growing Ukraine and Russian markets are a threat in some regards, but it's not all doom and gloom.

Esperance Quality Grains is transitioning into shipping grain in containers from the Esperance Port and Neil Wandel will provide detail on how this could benefit local growers. His talk will align with Rabobank's Cheryl Kalisch Gordon who will travel from New South Wales to talk about a recent report she has been involved with into the containerised grain export markets.

Entry is free and open to anyone to attend. Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea will be provided. For catering purposes can you please register on TryBooking: www.trybooking.com/TYEC.

A Taste of Esperance Dinner

Following the Harvest Review, a dinner will be held in the Esperance Civic Centre Reception Room. Catered for by Ned Corner Catering's Michelle Barret who will create a sumptuous celebration of Esperance produce.

The relaxed three course dinner, priced at \$70 per person for SEPWA members and \$100 for non-members will include pulses, seafood, lamb, beef and grains grown in the region. A bar will be available on the night and Lucky Bay beer will also be on tap.

The dinner starts at 7pm and you can get a table of people together or just join others on the night. Dress is smart casual.

To register and pay, you can go to TryBooking: www.trybooking.com/TYEC, or contact Jan Clawson on 0407 990 497 or janclawson@bigpond.com.

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