



South East Premium Wheat Growers Association

PO Box 365
ESPERANCE WA 6450

MEDIA RELEASE – Thursday February 9, 2017

SEPWA Harvest Review – “Thinking outside the square”

The annual SEPWA Harvest Review and AGM on Friday February 24 will focus on improving marketing options for malt barley in the Esperance Port Zone, along with extending important research outcomes pertinent to grain growers in the region.

A number of key industry identities will visit Esperance for the event including Executive Chairman of Barley Australia, Andrew Gee (NSW). Andrew will participate in a panel discussion which will focus on improving returns for barley growers in the port zone.

Other participants on the panel will include: Farmanco Grain Marketer, Mae Connelly (Narrogin); DAFWA Senior Research Officer, Blakely Paynter (Northam); MarketAg Advisor, Mark Pontifex (Perth); Esperance CBH Board member Simon Stead; barley traders, along with SEPWA Executive member Lyndon Mickel who is also Chair of GIWA’s WA Barley Council. Grass Patch farmer, Danny Sanderson will chair the discussion. Growers are encouraged to participate to better understand and find solutions to the recurring issue of lower price differentials for Esperance Port Zone malt barley.

Nuffield Scholar Bob Nixon from Kalannie will present on double break crops research and on farm lime sources. And another Nuffield Scholar, Reece Curwen from South Stirlings will discuss the dynamics between family farms and labour management systems.

DAFWA Researchers will present on some excellent local and state-wide projects including: Mark Seymour (break Crops); David Hall (soil constraints and deep tillage solutions); and Jeremy Curry (cereals).

SEPWA project officers, Nigel Metz and Aidan Sinnott will provide an overview of a number of important projects being run by SEPWA during 2017.

The SEPWA Harvest Review will be at Esperance Bay Yacht Club on Friday February 24 and registrations are from 8.30am. A sundowner in the Cliffs Room will occur straight after the event at 4.30pm.

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The RAIN Crop Updates will be held the day prior at Ravensthorpe on Thursday February 23 at the Ravensthorpe Entertainment Centre and will include sessions on break crops, variety trials, snail research and much more. For more information on this event, you can contact Elisa Spengler on 9838 1018. Registrations are from 10.30am and a Sundowner will follow at 5pm.

Both events are fully catered for and entry is free thanks to generous sponsorship from GRDC and GrainGrowers.

The North Mallee Updates will be held next month in Salmon Gums on Thursday March 16 at the Recreation Centre and also promises to be a day filled with information relevant to the region. Speakers will include Nuffield Scholar Nick Gillett from Bencubbin who will discuss innovative ways of improving crop establishment and yield; DAFWA researchers will extend local project findings; and Perth lawyer Stephen Park from Pacer Legal will discuss farm succession and provide practical tips on "ensuring the legacy is protected".

The North Mallee Updates is sponsored by GRDC and supported by SEPWA.

For more information on any of these events, you can go to: www.sepwa.org.au/events or please contact Niki Curtis at SEPWA on 0447 908 311. For catering purposes, please register ASAP.

Photo caption- Nuffield Scholars, Bob Nixon and Reece Curwen will be speaking at SEPWA Harvest Review on February 24.

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