

# GIWA CHAIR'S REPORT

## 2023 GIWA AGM



---

Wednesday, 4th October 2023,  
Optus Stadium, Perth

As I look back and reflect on the past 12 months, GIWA has once again been extremely busy.

It seems only like yesterday, that I stood before this same meeting last year, congratulating the industry on setting a record harvest, and who would have anticipated that we would break that record 12 months later. As we have come out of the restrictions from Covid, the GIWA team facilitated the GRDC Research Updates conference, with 630 participants meeting in person, relishing the opportunity to network face to face, and seen International delegations return to our shores, which in partnership with AEGIC and CBH, we have been able to host and display the great industry that we are a part of. We have once again consulted with industry to produce the annual Malt Barley Rationalisation Plan, and just last week held a showcase for the Processing Oats Partnership, giving those associated within the industry a snapshot of what is happening within this project. And not forgetting the five Commodity Councils that met regularly to address a range of important Industry issues.

As mentioned in my opening statement, I must congratulate the state's grain industry, on setting a new record of 26 million tonne harvest received last year, and especially CBH on receiving 23 million tonnes into their system. Given the issues that we had to contend with during what was a long wet drawn-out harvest, the harvest of 2022/23 will be one that is remembered for years to come.

However, on the downside we have seen the supply chain come under considerable pressure once again, given the sheer volume of grain needed to be sold and shipped. CBH have done an amazing job, once again breaking all-time records for grain movements. While it would be nice to have gone close to similar tonnes this coming harvest, the weather gods have ensured that we have come back to the norm, with significant areas of the state receiving well below average rainfall, resulting in a large reduction in the expected yields. In some regions they have gone, to use the phrase from feast to famine, and our thoughts are with everyone in those communities that will be impacted this year.

One of the common questions asked of GIWA has been how would the organisation coexist or merge in with Grains Australia, which was put to rest by John Woods, chair of GRDC, when he stated that GIWA would remain a stand-alone organisation, with the ability to feed directly into the commodity councils of Grains Australia. This has been a position that the GIWA Board has also maintained, given the uniqueness of the structure and coverage of the whole of the supply chain in the grains industry that we provide. So, we are here for the foreseeable future.

Finally, a few acknowledgements.

- Firstly, to all the Council members that volunteer their time to sit on the commodity councils. I would like to thank you all, on behalf of GIWA for the contribution that you make to benefit the Grains Industry of Western Australia. Without your commitment, we would not have the strength as an organisation to perform the functions that we do. Thank you to those that are standing down from their positions on the Commodity councils for your

contribution, and welcome to those that have been nominated to fill the vacancies. We look forward to working with you over the next 12 months.

- To DPIRD, CBH, AEGIC and GRDC, your continued support of GIWA is greatly appreciated, and we look forward to continuing to foster and grow our working relationships moving forward.
- To our many fee-paying members, from individuals through to large corporations. Your financial support of GIWA demonstrates your commitment to the grain industry and enables GIWA to undertake industry good functions that benefit the entire industry. Your membership also paves the way for you and your employees to sit on the GIWA commodity Councils, and on the GIWA Board. GIWA is very proud that it can offer a pathway for committed and knowledgeable people in our industry to gain experience operating at Council and then Board level. We see many GIWA alumni going on to take national roles in the grain industry, such as Ash Wiese and Drew Robertson who now Chair the Grains Australia Oat and Barley Councils respectively, and Bob Nixon, former GIWA Wheat Council Chair and GIWA Chair, and now a highly respected GRDC Board Member. You, and the other GIWA commodity Council members who hold important positions in national industry organisations, collectively ensure that our WA voice is heard by these organisations.
- To Mike Lamond and his team, that put together the monthly Crop Report. You have created a report that is the envy of the rest of the Australian Grains Industry, something that is a real feather in the cap for GIWA. Thank you for your contribution.
- I would like to acknowledge the passing of Steve Tilbrook, back in late July. Steve was a long-standing member and Chair of the GIWA Barley Council, past director of CBH and past executive member and life member of SEPWA. He was always passionate about the Grains Industry and his local communities, and often at end of a function would give a rousing rendition of the Lake King Football Club song with a beer in hand. I was lucky to spend time with Steve on both SEPWA and the Barley Council, and if it wasn't for him seeing something in me, and his guidance I would not be in the position that I am today. Our condolences go out to his wife Wendy and their family, he will be missed but not forgotten.
- To the staff, firstly to Rachel Nash, who left us back in June, after seven years of service to this wonderful organisation, a huge thank you for your contribution and friendship, and we wish you all the best in your future endeavours. And welcome to Nadia Geary, Margie Walkerden and Amanda Collett who have joined the GIWA team, welcome on board and we look forward to working with you all. To Deb Boxall, Ian Longson and Peter Nash, thank you for the passion that you have for the industry within which you work. It has been a pleasure to work alongside of you all once again, for the last twelve months.
- To my fellow board members, thank you for the faith that you have instilled in me to be your Chair, it has been truly humbling and an honour to be part of such a progressive organisation.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to announce that I will not be standing again as Chair, and would like to thank everyone within the industry that I have been fortunate to meet and work alongside over the last two years. I am forever grateful for the opportunities and friendships made during this time, and wish my successor all the best for their upcoming tenure.

**Lyndon Mickel**

**GIWA Chair**

Grain Industry Association of Western Australia (GIWA)