



GTA Annual General Meeting

- The Grain Trade Australia Annual General Meeting was held on the 23 October 2018.
- Grain Trade Australia would like to welcome the appointment of two new GTA Directors:
 - Michelle Kerr (Ordinary – Level C)
 - Simon Tickner (Special Qualifications)
- Jason Craig and Robert Imray were re-elected as GTA Directors.
- The 2018/19 GTA Board consists of Andrew Goyder (Chairman), Jason Craig (Level A), Lyndon Asser (Level A), Malcolm Finlayson (Level B), Ole Houe (Level B), Michelle Kerr (Level C), Lachlan Allen, Rob Imray, Michael Wood (all state Merchant Associations), Geoff Farnsworth (Special Qualifications – Legal) and Simon Tickner (Special Qualifications – Production Sector).
- GTA would like to thank Rebecca Reardon for her service to GTA as a Director (Special Qualifications – Production Sector) and wish her well in the role of Treasurer, NSW Farmers Association.

Appointment of GTA Technical Committees

- The new GTA 2018/19 Technical Committee appointments were finalised by the GTA Board at its October Board meeting.
- The list of the Committee Members can be found on the GTA Website:
<https://www.graintrade.org.au/committees>
- We would like to acknowledge and thank all members of the GTA Technical Committees who volunteer their services to support the important function of these committees.

GTA in Canberra

- GTA Chairman, Andrew Goyder, and CEO, Pat O'Shannassy met with political leaders from both sides of the political aisle last week in Canberra.
- GTA met with Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources, The Hon. David Littleproud MP and Opposition Spokesman for Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry, The Hon. Joel Fitzgibbon MP to highlight the effectiveness of the grains industry's Self-Regulatory Framework, including the Australian Grain Industry Code of Practice.
- Progress made by the grain industry on trade and market access issues was noted and that further work is being undertaken in this area by GTA and its industry counterparts.
- It was explained that GTA is a significant contributor to global grain trade through its active membership of the International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC). Through the IGTC, GTA is currently active in influencing global trade policy makers and forums on issues including Phytosanitary frameworks, plant breeding innovations in the supply chain, and promoting a framework for food safety and residue limits in the supply chain.
- GTA is currently working with Department for Agriculture and Water Resources on developing an APEC Grain Regulatory Forum and an ASEAN Non-Tariff Trade Measures Business Forum to focus on facilitation of trade in those important regional trade blocks.

- It was further highlighted that GTA members provide significant employment in the agricultural sector, particularly in regional communities.

Container Assessment Program

- With the support of Westlink Containers in Altona, Victoria, GTA coordinated an industry training forum that included a group assessment of several empty shipping containers.
- Attendees included representatives from the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources, Shipping Lines, Empty Container Parks, exporters, grain packers and the container transport association.
- The objective of the forum was to:
 - Gain a better understanding of the processes associated with the flow of containers through an empty container park;
 - have a common understanding of the standards associated with 'food grade' containers and Authorised Officer certified for export containers; and to
 - capture photographic detail of typical faults that prevent a container being certified as fit for loading grain for export.
- The process involved the joint inspection and discussion of imperfections and faults of several containers.
- Images captured on the day will potentially provide industry reference material that can be utilised to enhance existing reference guides and/or to develop new ones.
- GTA will continue to work with industry stakeholders, including Shipping Australia, to develop clearer guidelines for the assessment of empty containers.



APEC and ASEAN and IGTC Trip

- GTA is attending the International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC) annual General Assembly in Beijing, China in November. This important meeting of international grain trade organisations is timely opportunity to discuss several trade issues including regulation of innovative plant breeding technology, harmonisation of global regulatory regimes and electronic transmission of important data and certificates.
- Included in the program will be a Global Grain Forum in China. Leaders of China's grain industry and Government will meet with IGTC members to discuss issues and developments in their industry.
- GTA will present on the Australian feed grain markets as part of the Global Forum.
- GTA will also be investigating the feasibility of a establishing a grain regulatory forum as part of the APEC Trade Forum to be held in Chile in 2019. GTA will be liaising with trade organisations from APEC members economies seeking to develop industry consensus on issues of importance to the smooth and efficient trade of grain. This work is being done in conjunction and with the support of the Australian Department of Agriculture and Water Resources.

Digital Imaging of Grain Quality

- GTA is working with its members to progress the assessment of the EyeFoss machine for introduction into mainstream grain assessment. The concept of using digital imaging to replace subjective visual assessment of grain for defects is quite revolutionary.
- Using the new image analysis technology, grain passes under a 3D laser, 2D lights and camera to capture data. This data is then processed using a series of calibrations to determine the quality results.
- The EyeFoss can assess a standard half litre sample, in approximately four minutes for defects like sprouted grain, weed seeds and unmillable material as well as insect damage, mould, frost and germ damage.
- Progress has been by the major bulk handling companies over a number of years of testing to improve the calibrations for the instrument and to ensure they can be deployed in the sample stand. The calibrations for the EyeFoss machine have been significantly improved, but there is still further work to be performed to complete this process.
- The GTA Technology Sub-Committee is scheduling a full week of testing and assessment in early 2019 utilising grain samples from across Australia with the objective of certifying the EyeFoss for industry use.

GTA Event Reminders

GTA would like to remind GTA Members of the following:

1. **AGIC Asia** will be held from the 4 – 8 March 2019, venues and locations to be announced shortly.
2. **Australian Grains Industry Logistics Conference** – 9 & 10 April 2019, more details to come shortly.
3. **Australian Grain Storage & Protection Conference** will be held on 4 & 5 June 2019 at *Rydges on Swanston*, Melbourne. More details will be released early next year.
4. **AGIC Australia** will be held from the 31 July – 1 August 2019, venues and locations to be announced shortly.
5. **Code Assessment Program** – giving GTA Members and their staff demonstrable compliance with the Australian Grain Industry Code of Practice.