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MEDIA RELEASE

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Students fast-track new grain industry diploma

Grain Trade Australia (GTA) has congratulated the first two students to complete the new GTA Diploma of Grain Management, designed to prepare graduates to work in an increasingly sophisticated and complex industry.

South Australian, Kimberley Hoepner and Adrian Mondy from Western Australia completed the Diploma in record time and while working as full-time employees in the grains industry.



The GTA Diploma of Grain Management was developed after two years of consultation with industry and is recognised under the Australian Qualifications Framework and accredited by the Australian Skills Quality Authority.

GTA chairman, Peter Reading, said the Diploma was designed to educate stakeholders across the grain value chain, from producer to end user.

“It equips them with grain-specific skills to operate within this valuable export industry, and I think Kimberley and Adrian have done a terrific job in fast-tracking their study to graduate in a year, when the Diploma would normally take three years,” Mr Reading said.

There are currently 190 students across the country completing the Diploma as a whole or as skills sets, where prior learning is recognised. The course is delivered in face to face workshops, with all assessments completed online.

Kimberley Hoepner grew up on her family’s grain property near Balaclava, in the mid north of SA between Clare and the York Peninsula. She is employed as a grain accumulation officer at ADM Adelaide, which also sponsored her study.

Kimberley graduated from Marcus Oldham College with a Bachelor of Business majoring in agribusiness, and saw the Diploma as a chance to hone her grain skills.

“It offers a range of electives that complemented my grain skills, and I appreciated the chance to learn grain accounting, human resource and staff management,” Kimberley said.

WA graduate, Adrian Mondy was sponsored by CBH and says the GTA Diploma of Grain Management was a very well-run, well-rounded course with excellent communication.

“It was a challenge to study alongside work but my last qualification was a Bachelor’s degree in 1992, and it’s important to continue to be up to date with the latest industry skills,” Adrian said.

He’s worked in agriculture for most of his life at Mukinbudin and then Calingiri, and says the Diploma gave him an insight into different parts of the grain industry.

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PHOTO CAPTION: Adrian Mondy and Kimberley Hoepner at the Australian Grains Industry Conference in Melbourne

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About Grain Trade Australia:

Grain Trade Australia (GTA) is the focal point for the commercial grains industry within Australia. It facilitates trade and works to provide an efficient, equitable and open trading environment by providing leadership, advocacy and commercial services to the Australian grain value chain. GTA members are responsible for over 95% of all grain storage and freight movements made each year in Australia.

The vast majority of grain contracts executed in Australia each year refer to GTA trading standards and/or trade rules. GTA members are drawn from all sectors of the grain value chain from production to domestic end users and exporters. GTA members are involved in grain trading activities, grain storage and processing.