

MEDIA RELEASE – For Immediate Release**15 October 2024****Grain Trade Australia Celebrates the Completion of the Inaugural Five Under 30 Program**

Grain Trade Australia (GTA) proudly announces the successful completion of the inaugural Five Under 30 leadership development program, with the graduation of five outstanding young professionals. This initiative aims to cultivate the next generation of leaders within the grain industry by offering participants invaluable mentorship, networking opportunities, and real-world experience.

Throughout the year-long program, participants achieved significant milestones both personally and professionally. They benefited from career development opportunities, including overseas study programs, career advancement, and enhanced industry exposure that has driven their growth.

Edwina Cockburn, one of the graduates, reflected on how the program “reflected on how the program provided her with greater exposure in the industry, helping develop her skills and expand her knowledge in her current role.

For Michael Shanahan, the program instilled confidence in his leadership abilities. “[It gave] me the confidence to take on things I didn’t think I was ready for,” he said, recognising the program’s impact on his professional development.

Other participants saw their professional networks expand and gained direct engagement with industry leaders. These opportunities, combined with mentorship and collaboration, have helped participants grow in confidence which will benefit their organisations and the broader grain industry.

“We are thrilled to celebrate the achievements of this year’s cohort,” said Pat O’Shannassy, CEO of GTA. “Their dedication to growth and leadership will undoubtedly shape the future of the Australian grain industry.”

The Five Under 30 program is testament to GTA’s commitment to nurturing talent and ensuring the sustainability of the grain value chain. By equipping young professionals with essential skills and industry knowledge, the program bridges generational gaps in leadership and fosters fresh perspectives within the industry.

As the 2024-2025 Five Under 30 program launches on 30 October, GTA will soon announce the next cohort of participants, who are eager to embark on their journey of growth and innovation.

For more information about the Five Under 30 program, please visit graintrade.org.au/five-under-30

Photos available upon request.
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About GTA

GTA is a national trade association/peak body and is the focal point for the commercial grains industry within Australia. The role of GTA is to provide a framework across Industry to facilitate and promote the trade of grain. GTA Members are drawn from all sectors of the grain value chain from production to domestic end users and exporters. GTA has over 270 organisations as Members. Their businesses range from regional family businesses to large national and international trading/storage and handling companies who are involved in grain marketing activities, grain storage, human and stock feed milling. GTA Members are responsible for over 95% of all grain contracts, grain storage and freight movements made each year in Australia. GTA is a leader in international grain trade issues through its founding and active membership of the International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC). A list of GTA Members can be found at www.graintrade.org.au