

Primary Interest

The Newsletter of the
ADVISORY BOARD OF AGRICULTURE
Governing Body of the Agricultural Bureau



Issue 6, August 2009

Fruits of their labours - the key to successful value adding



Rick and Rosemary Steicke in their Gully Gardens shop show off their delicious dried fruit products.

When the local dried fruit company was taken over by a multinational and the price for Rick Steicke's produce crashed, he thought outside the square.

Even as he watched his neighbours tear out their orchards as they ceased to be viable, the Angaston Ag Bureau Branch member clung to the eight acres of apricots, peaches, pears and prunes on his property.

One particularly lean year, Rick and wife Rosemary decided to keep back some of their best fruit to experiment with drying. That first season, they sold 200kg of dried fruit at the farm gate.

Five years down the track, they are planning to dry eight tonnes of fruit this season and are selling their produce both from a boutique shop on their property and the Barossa Farmers' Market.

"We went down this path because we wanted to add value to our product," Rick said. "Value adding is the only way to go, if you want to have

any future in the industry.

"We didn't rush into it, though. You know how it is, I thought the product wasn't really good enough and there wouldn't be the demand. So we took a gamble and built the shop.

"It's still hard work and you wonder sometimes why you're doing it, but then you see how much pleasure it gives people and it's worth it."

Along with dried apricots, peaches, pears and prunes for sale by the kilo, the Steicke's business 'Gully Gardens' also produces a range of yummy sugar-free confectionary made from minced

dried fruit combined with ingredients like chocolate, yoghurt, nuts and coconut.

"This year we've done some experimenting with non-sulphured fruit," Rick said. "I've also got some old traditional muscat vines that I've played around with a bit, selling muscatel grapes as dried fruit. We also do currants and sultanas and next year we're looking at raisins.

"I really think one of the things that has helped us succeed is that we don't overprice."

Rick has lived and worked on the property for more than 40 years, taking over its management from his father in 2000.

The business is still a family affair, with Rosemary's sister working part-time with them in production and packing and Rick and Rosemary's mothers grading the fruit.

"I always say that size doesn't matter – it's the flavour that matters," Rick said.

You can find the Gully Gardens shop at Lot 491 Gawler Park Rd, Angaston. It's open on Thursdays and Fridays from 9.30am to 3pm and Saturdays from 9am to midday.

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Primary Industries and Resources SA

Sowing the Seeds with Mark Dennis

As my term as chair of the ABA draws to an end, it has made me look back over the past three years, at the challenges we have faced and the things we have accomplished.

It has been an undeniably tough time for most people on the land in South Australia, with three seasons of drought and barely more than a trickle of irrigation water available from the Murray.

If I had been able to choose the weather during my time as head of the board, I certainly would have chosen friendlier conditions.

That said, I have thoroughly enjoyed my time in the chair. I have been well supported by an extremely able board and a hard-working, determined executive.

I feel that we have stepped up to the mark, working through some huge challenges and using creative thinking to tackle the difficult conditions thrown at us by drought, bushfire and the thousand other issues that challenge us as farmers.

As a group, the board continues to take issues of concern from the farm gate direct to the Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries.

For many board members, this is our first opportunity to do this at a state level, and the chance is a valuable one.

Our great advantage is that when we talk about an issue, we also bring all the experience of our years as farmers.

We have had many issues requiring our attention over the past three years and on which to advise the Minister, especially relating to the drought.

I have been very pleased to see that some of our advice has been taken on board, with a number

of the drought and recovery assistance options the ABA suggested being implemented by the State Government.

On a personal level, I feel that during my time as chair, I have grown as a person and learned many new skills in areas like leadership and management.

I have also been delighted to see my fellow board members developing similar new skills, and particularly by the way we have been able to work together as a group to get so many things accomplished.

I would like to thank all the members of the ABA for the time and effort they have put in to making both the board and the Ag Bureau such a success.

They have gone above and beyond the call of duty, often leaving work undone on their own farms in order to achieve something for that will benefit the South Australian farming community. Without them, the two organisations would simply not be what they are today.

This year's Advisory Board of Agriculture Annual General Meeting will see some fresh changes for the ABA.

Held on the 18 August in Victor Harbor, the AGM will see a new chair be elected as I step down from my role and a new strategic focus for the year ahead.

I will however remain on the board as the Lower Eyre Peninsula representative, and offer whoever steps into the role every support, both while they settle in and on into the future.

There will also be some fresh new faces representing the Agricultural Bureau movement. Long standing board members' Trevor Wilksch (Barossa Valley), Shirley Pledge (Kangaroo Island), Allen Meissner (Adelaide Hills) and Vic Walter



(Fleurieu/Murray Plains) have decided not to renominate.

With rain having fallen in some areas of the state, this season is looking promising for some. Other areas of the state are still dry and for those of us who rely on Murray water, the picture is unlikely to improve for a few years to come.

Even for areas that have had some rainfall, one good year is not going to solve all our problems.

Unfortunately, it's likely to bring a whole new set of issues for the board and us as farmers to deal with, but we will continue to deal with them as they arise and to work towards long-lasting solutions.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Mark Dennis". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Mid north's Jared Schmaal takes out Lois Harris Scholarship

Hard work and a love for agriculture have helped Jared Schmaal from the mid north secure this year's Advisory Board of Agriculture, Lois Harris Scholarship.

The 18-year-old from Marrabel took out the \$2000 bursary after achieving the highest tertiary entrance score – an adjusted score of 97 – from a bevy of other first-year University of Adelaide, Bachelor of Agriculture students.

A student at Faith Lutheran in the Barossa, Jared says while he worked hard at school, he didn't even know he was in the running.

"The scholarship was a big surprise. I worked hard at getting what I needed done, but I didn't expect this," he said.

"It will be a big help, especially with travelling and campus accommodation at Roseworthy and purchasing learning material and books."

Having grown up on his family's

2500 acre cropping and sheep enterprise, Jared says he looks forward to broadening his view of agriculture and one day taking over the running of the family farm.

"I suppose I've always had a strong interest in farming, I enjoy it and love learning about new agricultural production systems," he said.

"I'd love to have the opportunity to travel and see what other agricultural industries are doing overseas and then maybe work as a local agronomist."

The scholarship, which is also supported by Primary Industries



ABA representative for the Lower North, Richard Konzag, congratulates mid north's Jared Schmaal.

and Resources SA, was named in honour of the late Lois Harris, a representative of the board to reward top students for agriculture studies.

Our People - Our Board

Few people would know Kangaroo Island better than KI's board representative Shirley Pledge.

She and husband Kingsley live on 1300ha near Vivonne Bay, a farm they have been working for more than 30 years, running a wool flock and prime lambs and recently adding cropping as well.

On top of her responsibilities on the property, Shirley is also a part-time tour guide and driver, sharing the beauty of the island with visitors from all over the world.

"It's really opened my eyes to the tourist scene on the island," she said. "It's given me a real appreciation of the wonderful places and wildlife that are right in my backyard. At the same time, it's been a great privilege to meet people from so many countries."

Shirley and Kingsley have had some dark days recently, though, seeing 80 per cent of their property and more than 300 sheep burnt by the

bushfires that tore through so much of the island in 2007.

"It was a terrible time and we were just devastated," she said. "But we picked ourselves up and went on. We weren't going to let the fires stop us. We've been here so long."

She and Kingsley originally moved to Kangaroo Island in 1973. Shirley taught at the school and they both worked hard to build up and develop their farm, a war service block that had only been partially cleared.

"That was an interesting process and quite an education in farming practices on the island," she said.

Over the years Shirley has maintained her interest in agriculture. She has been on the ABA for four years and during that time, has held the position of treasurer, sat on the executive and the selection panel for the Peter Olsen Fellowship. She has also been part of Landcare and served as chair



of the Soil Board for three years.

In the little spare time she has, Shirley is devoted to sport. She has played her share of games, racking up her 400th on the netball court a few years ago.

"I've always loved sport of all types," she said. "I coach netball and tennis to keep my hand in and of course, I've always been a very keen spectator, especially when my boys were playing."

Trials underway for building healthy crops

New technology and farming methods have been put to the test recently as part of an Advisory Board of Agriculture supported project.

Farmers in both the Eyre Peninsula and the South East have been trialling various methods to improve water use efficiencies in their crops and pastures by reducing soil constraints.

Supported also by the MacKillop Farm Management Group and funded by Landcare, the project has involved trials in clay spreading, delving, ripping, the deep injection of nutrients and the use of spaders.

The aim is to demonstrate improvements that can be made by boosting soil conditions in the subsurface profile that encourage root growth.

While major advances have been made with clay spreading and

delving, both these methods of soil improvement have their limitations in terms of the uniformity of effectiveness at depth.

A spader, a new tool in Australian agriculture is being used as part of the trials. The aim is to see whether after initial delving or clay spreading, the spader can further work the clay down to 35 cm with more even distribution.

The spader incorporates clay, organic matter (hay, silage or green manure) and fertiliser, lime or gypsum and leaves a fine fully worked soil in one pass.

A series of field days are being held in the South East, with plans underway to hold further field days in the Eyre Peninsula.

The project is also supported by the Southern Mallee Ag Bureau and the Department for Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation.



Upcoming South East Field Days:

Wednesday 26 August:

- 9 am, Sherwood, Jaeschkes', 3 km North East of Sherwood Fire Shed
- 11.30 am, Lowan Vale, Groococks', Raitz's Rd
- 2 pm, Western Flat, Ramsays' off Stotts Rd on Keller's Rd

Thursday 27 August:

- 9.30 am Bordertwon, Vercos' Farm, Cannawigara Rd
- 1 pm Willalooka, Locks', off Grices Rd

Contact: Jock McFarlane, Rural Solutions SA, 0418 842 254.

Bureau bursary a boost for rural youth

A new Agricultural Bureau study grant aims to help young people working in rural areas to achieve their dreams.

The \$5000 Rural Youth Movement Bursary is expected to be available every year for the next eight years and will assist someone aged between 18 and 30 pursue further study in their chosen career.

The bursary is funded by \$40,000 allocated to the Ag Bureau when the South Australian Rural Youth Movement wound up earlier this year.

Bureau treasurer Yvonne Correll said the scheme was open to all young people who wanted to continue to work in rural areas, not only primary producers.

"It's just such an ideal opportunity to progress a project that they might want to work on, or take a study tour," Yvonne said.

"The idea is to bring those skills back to rural areas and use them at community level."

The Rural Youth Bursary is the Bureau's third grant to encourage young people in study. It joins the Peter Olsen Fellowship and the Lois Harris Scholarship for the state's highest-scoring Year 12 student studying agriculture.

The Bureau is also putting up \$1000 to allow four young South Australians to attend PIRSA's SA Rural Leadership Program.

Meanwhile, ABA board members are also providing mentoring support to PIRSA and Office for Youth's 'Ignite' program. It is offering assistance to young agri-food entrepreneurs to build new products and business ideas.



Jason Clothier from Naracoorte with other young agri-business producers from the Ignite program

Applications for the Rural Youth Movement Bursary and the leadership program grants close on September 14, with successful candidates to be announced at the Spirit or Excellence Awards on October 13.

More info: www.agbureau.com.au or call 1800 652 258.

On the hunt for the best seeders

Every farmer wants to produce better, higher yielding and healthier crops.

The Weavers Agricultural Bureau on Yorke Peninsula is conducting trials to find out how to do just this, thanks to the allocation of Bureau Project Funds.

Using four different seeding machines in the one paddock - two disk seeders and two conventional tyne seeders - the Branch will harvest four trials individually with a header equipped with a yield monitor to test and draw any comparisons.

The idea of conducting trials developed when the Weaver Branch drew up their program for the 2008 - 09 year and identified this type of work had not been done in the region for quite some time.

The trials started in May and will continue until harvest in November/December.

Monitoring will be via inspection at crop walks, yield mapping and

photos to record information and track data.

An inspection was held on 13 July involving 20 members.

There was also a combined Bureau /

SANTFA/YP

Alkaline Soils Group crop walk on 30 July. A Weavers Branch District Tour will take place at the end of September.

Weaver's Branch Secretary Craig Lienert says that the July inspection, indicated that sheep had favoured the rows spread out on the ground by three of the machines, and were fairly well eaten down, while one k-hart seeded trial had been largely left alone, so he said it was hard to tell growth-wise at this early stage.

A summary of results will be presented at the Harvest Report meeting in February 2010 which will provide more information on



Peter Carmichael explains the workings of his Bourgault disk seeder at one of the trial sites.

disk seeders versus tyne seeders.

Craig said the three-quarters funding received on approval of their application had been extremely helpful.

"These trials take time, money and effort," Craig said. "Without the support of funds, they would not have been able to take place."

The funding balance will be received from the Advisory Board of Agriculture once the final report on the trials is complete.

Funding is available to financial Branches to undertake projects that will benefit members or the community. Local board members can be contacted for further information.

Peter Olsen Fellowship now open

Young farmers wanting to pursue new skills or undertake innovative projects are encouraged to apply for the Agricultural Bureau of South Australia's Peter Olsen Fellowship for Young Farmers.

Applications are now open for the \$8000 fellowship, which provides young people aged 18 to 35 involved in farming with the chance to enhance and develop their on-farm skills.

Agricultural Bureau SA State President, Mark Dennis says the Fellowship is about supporting the state's next generation of farmers to develop their skills, pursue new ways of farming and boost their industry knowledge.

"At the Bureau we believe it is important that we support our future leaders, and this Fellowship aims to ensure our young

generation has the opportunity to learn, develop and up-skill," he said.

People who are already studying or plan to do so in the future can apply for the Fellowship, or the grant can also be used for courses, study tours or running special projects.

Last year's winner, 24-year-old Brook Seal from Kimba used the Peter Olsen Fellowship to trial more than 500 sheep covers on his family's farming property. He will be holding a field day in September to share his fellowship findings.

The Fellowship, sponsored also by PIRSA, is named in memory of Eyre Peninsula farming identity and Agricultural Bureau member Peter Olsen. Mr Olsen and his wife Wendy were among eight people killed when a Whyalla Airlines plane crashed into Spencer Gulf in 2000.

Applications close on 14 September



Last year's winner, Brook Seal, will be holding a field day in September to share his fellowship findings.

with the winner to be announced at the Spirit of Excellence Awards in Agriculture on 13 October.

More info: www.agbureau.com.au or call 1800 652 258.

Branch Briefs - latest info from across the network

Lochaber:

Recent guest speaker Paul Smith, spoke on the fertilizer industry. He thought prices had a little further to fall but the long term trend was up, but hopefully in line with the commodity prices. There was approximately 50% reduction in pasture fertilizer use in previous two years in Southern Australia which probably will be turned around a little this coming season. Also he is confident in the research and development that was being done around Australia to keep up with the challenges that will be coming our way in coming years.

Mil Lel:

Held their AGM. They heard from Rob Palamountain NRM Senior Project Officer (Irrigation Efficiency) about Evapotranspiration, the auto weather station network and how producers can use the various data information for more efficient irrigation and cropping practices and pasture management.

Millicent:

Held their AGM. They heard a

local identity's experiences hiking the Kakoda Trail and challenges hiking through Nepal to the base camp of Mt. Everest. Powerpoint presentation demonstrated the stark contrasts of the two countries' geographical features.



The Mallala Ag Bureau Branch on their 'Future Farming Technologies and Barley for Quality Malt' tour

Mundulla:

Branch visited the Lamantina Carrot Farm, south of Kaniva in Victoria.

Wolseley:

Held a meeting with guest speaker, Ian Dundas. He is a specialist researcher in stem rust from Adelaide University, Waite Campus.

Angaston:

Held their 18th annual Hogget Competition. 70 sheep producers participated in various categories.

Mallala:

Held a 'Future Farming Technologies and Barley for Quality Malt' tour. Included visits to the Waite Campus - Australian Centre for Plant Functional Genomics and Coopers Brewery.

Board Bis

June meeting

The Advisory Board of Agriculture met on 16 and 17 June. Greg Cock, PIRSA Drought Response Manager, provided an update on the Drought Program outlining the key points of Phase 10.

The Bureau's Constitution is in the process of being updated and there was considerable discussion on this, in particular relating to Corporate Governance.

Minister Paul Caica met for the first time with the full Board and issues discussed included R&D, the Drought Program, the Board's role and how the ABA can be of best value to the Minister. He is keen to continue working closely with the ABA, and will again attend the October meeting.

Kris Roberts, PIRSA Executive Director, Industry Development and Renewal also addressed the Board highlighting scenario's for growth, and how the ABA and PIRSA can best engage. The Board

was challenged to rethink its aims, objectives and strategies to maximise its value to all stakeholders.

A dinner attended by current and past Board members, invited Government and industry representatives was also held at Hurley's Arkaba on 16 June to commemorate Trevor Wilksch's 10 consecutive years service on the ABA. He steps down at this year's AGM and the dinner was a chance for those who have worked with Trevor over this time to thank him for his commitment and dedication.

The three working groups met on 17 June. The combined Bureau Promotions group discussed the Rural Youth Bursary, the concept of a Membership Liaison Officer and the value of how to get the best value from field days.

The Best Practice group discussed Climate Variability, the Farming Systems Project, new ideas for 2009, the Cost of Production Tool,



ABA member Neville Ferme (Mid North), chair Mark Dennis, Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries Paul Caica and ABA member Peter Rose (Murraylands).

Bureau Project Funds, P-Week and Landcare Facilitators.

The Government group firstly overviewed business arising from their last meeting. Other issues covered included new driver fatigue laws and their impact, registration / stamp duty on farm machinery, encouraging R&D into new technologies, and (building and maintaining the) relationships with NRM Boards.

Waite on show

While Ag Bureau members are in town for the Royal Adelaide Show, why not take the opportunity to visit the Waite Campus?

Arranged by the Advisory Board of Agriculture (ABA), the campus is again opening its doors to farmers and all people with an interest in agriculture on Friday 11 September.

The open day begins at 1:00 pm with a tour of the Waite Campus and concluding with a tour of the campus winery from 4:30 pm. Afternoon tea and a welcome by SARDI Executive Director will take place from 3:10 pm.

"This is an ideal opportunity to not only visit and tour the campus, but attend sessions on research topics including water use efficiency, application of fertilisers, weeds, breeding of new legume crops and establishing pastures", ABA chair Mark Dennis said.

This year the program also includes a focus on the University undergraduate courses conducted at the Waite Campus. Bureau members and intending students can hear about and discuss them:

To this end, teachers and students have also been invited to join the visit between 1:00 and 2:00 pm, especially those from year 11 and 12 with an interest in studying agricultural sciences.

To allow for adequate support and catering, please register your interest as soon as possible. RSVP Tony Rathjen at the University on 0408 816 533 or email anthony.rathjen@adelaide.edu.au.

Calendar of Events:
Reminder to all Branches to please advise Anne Madden or Sam Johnson about forthcoming events so they can be included on the website, in Primary Interest and Board Bis. Let other branches know what you are doing and the issues facing your area.

Nominate now for Service to Primary Production

It is that time once again to recognise the tiresome and dedicated work of the state's top community members in primary production.

Nominations are now open for the 2009 Agricultural Bureau Services to Primary Production Award.

Last year's winner was Lindsay Dowley an irrigator and grape grower from Loxton. He was nominated by the Loxton Irrigation Branch. Lindsay played a major role in getting the Loxton Irrigation Trust rehabilitated and is now its Presiding Officer. Being a member of the Bureau since 1972, he has had a long association with horticulture improvements and industry organisations

Other winners have included Fred Maynard, the late Clem Koch, Jack Seekamp, Clem Obst, Trevor Dillon,

Ted Dopson and Leon Rosenzweig, Rob Smyth, and David Verner.

Each Bureau Branch has the opportunity to nominate a person they believe has provided exceptional service to primary production. The person nominated does not need to be a Bureau member, and it is not restricted to farmers.

The only criterion is that they are involved in primary production. So it can be anyone from the service industries, government, education or even agri-politics.

It is necessary to receive approval from the nominee and it is also important to clearly outline the reasons for the nomination.

Nominations close on Friday 18 September. The Award will be presented at the Spirit of Excellence in Agriculture Awards on 13 October.

Upcoming Ag Bureau Events

13 August

Ag Bureau – Mt Barker Branch
Members' profile: 4 members to speak on their backgrounds
Alan Vickers, Secretary
0438 602 079

17 & 18 August

Advisory Board of Agriculture
AGM and associated activities
Vic Walter, ABA Fleurieu / Murray
Plains Rep
8598 5335

18 August

Ag Bureau – Mallala Branch
Men's Health
David Cawrse, Secretary
8525 4066

September

Ag Bureau – Mallala Branch
Annual Bus Trip – date and details to be confirmed
David Cawrse, Secretary
8525 4066

1 September

Ag Bureau – Angaston Branch
AGM / BBQ Dinner
Mark Grossman, Secretary
0408 085 682

10 September

Ag Bureau – Mt Barker Branch
Details to be confirmed / announced
Alan Vickers, Secretary
0438 602 079

29 September - 1 October

Yorke Peninsula Field Days at Paskeville
Elaine Bussenschutt, Administrator
8827 2040

October

Ag Bureau - Mallala Branch
Making use of yield maps - Ed Cay
David Cawrse, Secretary
8525 4066

6th October

Ag Bureau - Angaston Branch
CFS - The EP Fire
Mark Grossman, Secretary
0408 085 682

8th October

Ag Bureau - Mt. Barker Branch
Details to be confirmed
Alan Vickers, Secretary
0438 602 079

Bridging the Gap - the latest in durum breeding research

Durum wheat is looking to be a crop of considerable promise for South Australian farmers and new research is helping to make that happen.

Projected prices for durum next harvest are over \$400 a tonne compared to barley at under \$200 a tonne.

The University of Adelaide knows only too well how important this evolving crop is and has set out to breed robust varieties better adapted to our state's farming conditions.

It is hoped that these new varieties will give farmers an alternative crop when prices are low. It will also ensure supplies for the local industry and a consistent exportable surplus for which there is a clear demand.

With support from the SA Durum

Growers Association and San Remo, researchers at the University's Waite Institute are working on developing varieties that produce more reliable yields on limey soils and pale sands, are intolerant to zinc and iron deficiencies and are resistant to Crown Rot.

While there has been astonishing progress in the understanding of genetics in the last 50 years, the University's primary goal in breeding is to select lines which perform well under actual farm conditions.

In order to establish this, a series of trials have been set up on farms within the current durum growing area at Kapunda, Roseworthy, Jamestown, Mallala, and Winulta.

Trials are also taking place in marginal areas for durum - Red Hill, Wanderah, Claypans, Coonalpyn, Angas Valley and Two Wells - with

the aim of expanding the area in which the crop can be profitably grown.

Supplementing these are trials conducted by Leigh Davis from SARDI on Eyre Peninsula, and Charlton Jeisman from Rural Solutions SA at Morchard, with support from Landmark and the SA Durum Growers.

Further trials are also being conducted trialling lower seeding rates, as it has been observed that plants under lower moisture stress are less vulnerable to Crown Rot.

Already five new lines have been entered into the National Variety Trials of the Grains Research Development Corporation and three of these are being multiplied by the SA Durum Growers as a prelude to release.

New irrigated industry grant program

A grant program is now available to River Murray irrigators to assist them keep their long-term viable plantings alive.

The Irrigated Industry Support Program (IISP) is open to viable farm businesses that choose to purchase water allocation for 'critical survival needs' to irrigate permanent plantings in the River Murray corridor, and who are authorised to take and use River Murray water.

The IISP will provide irrigators with a reimbursement grant of up to \$260 per megalitre for water allocations purchased between 1 July 2009 and 28 February 2010, specifically to ensure the survival of permanent plantings subject to the terms and conditions of the IISP.

Non-permanent plantings such as vegetables and pastures are excluded.

PIRSA will support irrigators in the application process over the next three months.

Applications will close on October 31 and irrigators will be able to claim grant payments by 30 April 2010, once final allocations are known.

Irrigators who require further information or are undecided about participating in the IISP are encouraged

to attend the Irrigator Information Workshops.

Information workshops will be held:

Wed 2 September, Waikerie Club, 9 -11 am

Wed 2 September, Barmera Monash Football Club, 3-5 pm

Thur 3 September, :Loxton Hotel, 9-11 am

Thur 3 September, Renmark Hotel, 3-5 pm

Fri 4 September, Langhorne Creek Football Club, 9-11 am.



To register for the workshops contact the Riverland Response Centre on free-call 1800 857 327.

Detailed information about the Irrigated Industry Support Program (IISP) is available at www.pir.sa.gov.au/drought/grants.

WAB News

Women in Agriculture and Business SA has a new State President.

Adair Dunsford (pictured) recently began her two year term at the recent WAB State Conference.

A journalist, author and farmer from Keith, Adair believes she is taking over the reins at both an exciting and challenging time for the organisation.

"I feel very positive about WAB and see a role and a future for us in rural South Australia," she said.

"I see WAB as a really important network for women of all ages who live in rural communities.

"WAB will continue to be an important lobby group to represent rural women and their families for many years to come."

Since June 2006 WAB has added four new branches but also lost branches as aging groups feel they can no longer continue.

Adair says that in many areas of SA, a generational change is underway.

"Young couples are taking over the management of farm properties and putting their stamp on agriculture and their communities," she said.

She believes WAB is well placed to attract young women to join the ranks of members in what Senator Alan Ferguson recently

described as "our foremost volunteer organisation for women in agriculture and business."



Drought Information

Drought Assistance eligibility guidelines are available from: PIRSA Prudential and Rural Financial Management, on 1800 182 235 (freecall)

Further information is available from:

- PIRSA website drought page www.pir.sa.gov.au/drought or the Drought Hotline: 180 2020 (freecall)
- SA Government Drought Response <http://www.sa.gov.au/drought>
- Rural Financial Counselling Service SA <http://www.rfcssa.org.au/>
- Centrelink Drought Assistance http://www.centrelink.gov.au/internet/internet.nsf/payments/drought_assist.htm
- Australian Government Drought Assistance <http://www.daff.gov.au/agriculture-food/drought>
- beyondblue <http://www.beyondblue.org.au/>

For the latest news and tips on the drought and government programs subscribe to the free fortnightly drought e-news. Log onto www.sa.gov.au/drought. Jump to media and communication and follow the prompt under drought e-news.

Your ABA regional representatives

Chairman

Mark Dennis (Lower Eyre Peninsula)
8684 4250
0428 844 250

Deputy Chairman

Neville Ferme (Upper North)
8636 5016
0409 365 016

Treasurer

Heather Baldock (Eastern Eyre Peninsula)
8627 4056
0428 101 416

Richard Konzag (Lower North)

8527 2077
0417 830 406

Philip Wheaton (Far West Coast /

Central Eyre Peninsula)
8626 1301
0428 261 301

Shirley Pledge (Kangaroo Island)

8559 4215
0427 041 787

Peter Rose (Murraylands)

8578 9049

Trevor Wilksch (Barossa Valley)

8524 5344
0417 391 124

Vic Walter (Fleurieu / Murray Plains)

8598 5335
0438 011 200

Allen Meissner (Adelaide Hills)

8388 3378

Tony Loffler (Riverland)

8584 9083

Richard Murdoch (Yorke Peninsula /
Hummocks)

8854 5115
0419 842 419

Janette Ridgway (Upper South East)

8753 2338
0427 532 338

Yvonne Correll (Mid and Lower South East)

8765 8065
0438 273 264

Helen Colliver (WAB rep)

8835 1252