

Fresh faces join old hands



Plant Health
AUSTRALIA

News Release News Release

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Plant Health Australia (PHA) is pleased to welcome two new directors to the Board, following Member endorsement at the PHA Annual General Meeting in Canberra today.

The two new Directors are Ms Julie Haslett and Mr Roger Smith.

Julie Haslett has been employed with the Almond Board of Australia (ABA) since 2001 and has been its CEO since 2007. The ABA is the Peak Industry Body for the Australian almond industry, representing Australian almond growers, processors and marketers located across Australia. ABA is an Industry Member of PHA.

Roger Smith is currently a consultant and Principal with Kholassey Pty Ltd, a firm that has consulted to a range of Commonwealth and state and territory government agencies on biosecurity issues. He is a former Director of Animal Health Australia Ltd and has Chaired the National Primary Industries Health Committee.

Current PHA Directors Darral Ashton and Jan Davis were also reappointed at the meeting for another four-year term

PHA Members voted unanimously to accept the recommendations of the Board to appoint the Directors. Ms Haslett and Mr Smith replace outgoing Directors Peter Bailey and Malcolm Finlayson.

PHA Chairman, Dr Tony Gregson, thanked both outgoing directors. "I would like to acknowledge the valuable contribution that both Peter and Malcolm have made to the protection of Australia's plant industries during their tenure on the PHA Board. I wish them both all the best in their future endeavours," Dr Gregson said.

More detailed biographies of the newly appointed Directors are attached as background, but can also be found on the PHA website at www.planthealthaustralia.com.au.

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BACKGROUND

Darral Ashton

Mr Darral Ashton is the Chairman of Apple and Pear Australia Limited. Apple and Pear Australia Limited represents the interests of commercial apple and pear growers in Australia.

Darral is also Chairman of Batlow Fruit Co-Operative Limited, Deputy Chairman of Horticulture Australia Council Limited, Director of Southern Phone Company Limited and is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Jan Davis

Jan Davis has a strong background in the Australian horticultural industry and in member based organisations within the sector. She is a currently Chair of the Australian Agricultural Colleges Corporation and a past Director of Rural Industries Research & Development Corporation, AUSVEG Inc, Australian Horticultural Growers' Council Inc, Greening Australia, and the Australian Institute of Agricultural Science & Technology.

Until recently Ms Davis was Chief Executive Officer of Growcom, a role held since 2001. She previously held senior executive roles with the Australian Mushroom Growers Association, Greening Australia and the Nursery Industry Association of Australia.

Ms Davis has a Bachelor of Economics, a Graduate Diploma of Education, a Graduate Diploma of Environmental Studies, a Master of Environmental Planning and a Master of Agribusiness.

Julie Haslett

Julie Haslett has been employed with the Almond Board of Australia since 2001 and has been its CEO since 2007. The Almond Board of Australia (ABA) is the Peak Industry Body for the Australian almond industry, representing Australian almond growers, processors and marketers located across Australia. ABA is an Industry Member of PHA.

From 2002 to 2007 Julie was Secretary to the Australian Nut Industry Council (ANIC) and has been a Director of ANIC for the past two years. ANIC is also an Industry Member of PHA. In more recent times she has taken on the role of Executive for the Pollination Australia Alliance, which was formed in 2008 as an alliance between the honeybee industry and twelve major horticultural industries that are dependent upon pollination.

Julie has had wide experience working in primary production for a family owned and operated business growing almonds, citrus, stonefruit and wine grapes. Roles spanned orchard management, packing and processing, quality assurance, business administration, marketing and exporting. Marketing experience also stems from her role with Quality Fruit Marketing, a Riverland-based company marketing "Zest" brand stonefruit into both domestic and international markets.

Julie has a Bachelor of Teaching degree and undertook the Company Directors Course with the Australian Institute of Company Directors in 2009. Julie lives in Berri, South Australia.



Roger Smith

Roger Smith is currently a consultant and Principal with Kholassey Pty Ltd, a firm that has consulted to a range of Commonwealth and state and territory government agencies, including for AusBIOSEC (the National Biosecurity Strategy for Primary Production and the Environment), and the National Biosecurity Research Capability under the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS) program that includes the Australian Biosecurity Intelligence Network (ABIN). Roger has also led reviews into the Citrus Canker outbreak response for DAFF and QDPI&F, and the management of the equine influenza response on behalf of the National Management Group.

From 1996 to 2004 Roger was first Secretary of the Northern Territory Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries then General Manager of Primary Industry with the Northern Territory Department of Business Industry and Resource Development. In these roles he provided high-level policy advice and implemented initiatives delivering economic and sustainable development outcomes in the Territory's horticultural, pastoral and agricultural primary industry sectors. Among his achievements Roger maintained the Northern Territory's capacity and readiness for animal and plant pest and disease preparedness and control programs and oversaw the eradication program for Grapevine Leaf Rust from the Territory. He was also involved in development of the Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed and the Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement before it.

Roger has a Bachelor of Science (Forestry Honours), a Graduate Diploma in Public Sector Management and is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. He is a former Director of Animal Health Australia Ltd, has Chaired the National Primary Industries Health Committee and the Industry - Government Working Group on Honeybee Biosecurity in the Northern Territory, and has been the Northern Territory's representative on the National Primary Industry Standing Committee. He is currently a Director on the Board of the Desert Knowledge CRC. Roger lives in Palmerston in the Northern Territory.

Plant Health Australia (PHA)

PHA is the lead national coordinating body for plant biosecurity in Australia. Working in partnership with industry, governments, researchers and others, PHA facilitates and manages improvements in biosecurity policy and practice across Australia's plant industries and builds capacity to respond to plant pest emergencies.

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