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COOLE CHANGE AT WAPPA AS DENT MAKES MARK

Cuballing producer Graeme Dent is the new WA Pork Producers' Association (WAPPA) President, replacing Stuart Coole of Boyup Brook, who stood down at the recent annual general meeting after two years at the helm.

He remains on Executive, with Vice-President Richard Evison of Albany, Treasurer Errol Howard of Wannamal and newly elected Darren Edwards of Popanyinning.

Presenting his President's report to about 25 producers and others at Pastoral House, Mr Coole said WAPPA's newly elected Executive for 2005/06 will be charged with the very serious responsibility of reviewing the Association as it moves forward.

"Although at the forefront of progressive livestock production systems over the years, our industry has tended to let itself slip a little in some ways. Not often enough do we encourage partnerships with business, industry and the community so we can collectively move forward," he said.

"We all have a hand in a great industry, with a fabulous modern product that is in greater demand across the world than any other meat, so let's get on with the job now and feed the hand that feeds us."

WAPPA Executive Officer, Russell Cox, presenting his report to the AGM, identified the major challenge facing WAPPA as an organisation was to define its role as a professional body representing the WA pork industry.

"This may require engaging a wider range of stakeholders capable of impacting positively on the present and future productivity and sustainability of pork production in WA," he said.

Mr Cox added that for the WA pork industry to prosper, it needed a coalition of the willing.

"In other words, we need everyone pulling together to achieve common aims and hit targets."

Key issues addressed by WAPPA in the last year included the Productivity Commission Inquiry, biosecurity (PMWS), national environmental guidelines, APIQ Program, model code of practice for pig welfare, country of origin and home grown labelling.

After the AGM and general meeting, WAPPA held its annual industry dinner at Ascot Quays.

Attended by about 125 people, including WA Agriculture Minister, Kim Chance, it featured Vince Garreffa of Mondo Di Carne as keynote speaker.

Dinner sponsors included Wesfeeds, Milne Feeds, Australia Pork Limited, Bio John Animal Health, Computing Australia, D'Orsogna, Watsonia, Hyfarm Genetics, Intervet, Pfizer Animal Health, PIC Australia, PPC Linley Valley, Portec and Poultry Farmers of WA Co-operative.

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