Fanie Viljoen, (Letsitele Board representative) formerly vice-Chairman, was voted in as Chairman, and Gabrie van Eeden (CGA representative for Western Cape) was voted in as vice-Chairman. Dr Hoppie Nel, the former Chairman, was thanked by Fanie and the Board for his dedication over the past years on the Executive Committee and in the Chair. He remains director for the Onderberg region. Antoine Rouillard declined re-election on the Executive Committee, but remains representative for Pongola.

At the Board Meeting held on 26th February at Willow Park near Johannesburg airport, the Board members went through the annual procedure of nominating and appointing the Chairman, vice-chairman and Executive Committee.

Fanie Viljoen, new CGA Chairman; centre: Gabrie van Eeden - new CGA vice-Chairman, right: Hoppie Nel – outgoing Chairman.

The other Executive Committee members are Tini Engelbrecht (Senwes regional director) and newly appointed Gerhard Uys. (Patensie CGA director).

The CGA Board of Directors term of office is of a two year duration, after which a nomination and election process is followed. Two new directors have now been appointed. Mr Peter Nicholson, (Limpopo River region) who has been on the CGA Board since it’s inception in 1997, has ‘retired from office’. Peter served the citrus growers of southern Africa tirelessly, competently holding the post of Chairman during the early days, proving to be a wise and canny individual, aware of pitfalls that others may have missed.

Hannes Nel now joins the CGA Board as a new director. Hannes owns Maroi Boerdery which is close to Beit Bridge in the Limpopo Valley. He was born in Zambia in 1969 and grew up in Zimbabwe. His parents moved to South Africa in 1980 and started the farm he is still running today. Hannes and his father started Maroi Boerdery CC in 1994 and he now runs it alone. He farms melons, processing tomatoes and onions, as well as 60 ha of Valencias. He packs approximately 250 000 cartons for himself and an adjacent farmer. Hannes and Madeleine have three children. In his spare time, Hannes enjoys fishing, hunting and collecting.

Pieter Nortje, who very ably represented the Sundays River Valley growers for the past two years, will be missed on the Board for his sharp awareness and passionate support of the growers in his region.


Phillip du Plessis, who was elected in his place, was born in 1971 and completed his schooling in Oudtshoorn. He completed his ND Agricultural Management in PE. His active career in the farming industry began in 1994, being involved in the management of a 400 ha farm with livestock, cereals, Lucerne and vegetables. In 2002 he became part of the Executive Management of 9 farms with citrus and vegetable cultivation. In 2004 he became Operations Manager for Woodridge, Carden and Belmont Citrus farms, being responsible for the entire operation on the citrus farms.

In 2007 he started his career at the Sundays River Citrus Company (SRCC) as the Operations Manager for the Primary Production Department and part of the Executive Management Team of the SRCC. He is also involved in the expansion of the Land Reform and BEE projects and the overall management and supervision of more than 600 ha of citrus orchards with over a million export cartons per year. He is actively involved in the training and development of all the employees.

Phillip is currently completing his B-Tech at Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University. He is married to Amanda and they have two daughters. In his free time he enjoys tennis and golf.