New director for Patensie Region

Gerhard Uys, MD of Patensie Citrus, advised CGA that he would not be available for re-election to the Board when his term of office came up for renewal in December. The CGA will miss Gerhard’s wisdom and advice on the Board and Executive Committee. After the election results were sorted and counted, Phillip Dempsey, left, was pronounced the new regional representative on the CGA Board of Directors.

Phillip was born in East London in 1975, completing school at Grens High School. He went on to Saasveld in George, where he obtained a National Diploma in Agricultural Management, continuing with his B.Tech Agric. Management at Technikon SA. Phillip also completed a MSA Masters in Sustainable Agriculture at University of the Free State. He spent five years farming at Saffraan Boerdery in Patensie then UAP for a year. Phillip is currently Regional Manager Eastern Cape at Southern Fruit Growers, which he joined in 2002. Other committees he is serving on at present include the Navel and Lemon Focus Groups, as well as Chairman of the Baviaans Study Group and of the Gamtoos FCM and Blackspot working group. Phillip is very involved in the Biodiversity and Citrus initiatives (BCI Gamtoosvalley) where he is a member on the steering committee. Phillip is married to Christine and they have a three-year-old daughter and twin boys of five months.

Another replacement on the Board

Gabrie van Eeden, right, has stepped down from the CGA Board after serving as the W-Cape representative since 2005. The CGA Board understands Gabrie’s need to spend more time on his business activities (he has also served on the CGA Executive) but he will be sorely missed – his input has been of great importance to the administration of the CGA.

Another nomination and voting procedure had to be carried out in the Western Cape, and Piet Smit, left, was elected to the Board.

Piet was born on 29 March 1960 and is the 4th generation to live on their citrus farm in Citrusdal, Western Cape. After school he completed two years military service as an officer in 1 Parachute Battalion. He then obtained a B.Sc (Agric) (Entomology & Plantpathology) at University of Stellenbosch in 1984. During 1985 he spent some time in the USA. On his return he attended Bloemfontein College.

Since 1987 Piet has been actively involved in the citrus industry and currently serves on the Board of Directors for Boontjiesrivier Boerdery, Cedarpack, Favourite Fresh Exports (FFE, a newly established marketing company), Western Cape Citrus Producers Forum (CPF, focuses on the USA market) and XSit. Piet has three children (Emsi 19 years, Hendrien 17 years and Gerrit 14 years).

Hoedspruit Directorship under new management

Flip Smit, right, the CGA representative for Hoedspruit, has stepped down due to his having moved out of the area. CGA are grateful that Flip has agreed to stay on as the Financial director and Chairman of the Audit Committee to ensure the financial activities of the CGA and its subsidiaries are being correctly monitored.

The nomination and election procedure necessary in the face of fierce competition for a new Director in this region eventually led to the appointment of Fanie Meyer, left.

Fanie Meyer was born in Pretoria and went to school in Lyttelton (Centurion) and graduated at the University of Pretoria with a B. Sc. (Honours) in Wildlife Management. He also holds a M. Sc. from RAU.

After his first working experience in Fisheries Research and Management he entered the commercial world of Agrochemicals with a well known multinational and was mainly involved in research and development. He was a Board member of Outspan before and after deregulation.

Since 1992 Fanie has been General Manager of four large citrus estates in Swaziland and the Mpumalanga and Limpopo lowveld.

Fanie has two sons, Reinier and Etienne, who are also involved in agriculture. When he gets the chance, Fanie enjoys his golf and fishing with good friends.