

***“We live in a world where the intelligent must keep quiet so that the stupid will not be offended” Anon***

### **FIRST WEEK OF CGA GROWER ROADSHOWS**

A few years back Chris White, who has travelled to more fruit growing regions than you can imagine, and who has written volumes on the world of perishable products, stated that he could tell the health of an industry by the number of young people who attended industry meetings and conferences. From this first week's CGA Grower Roadshows in Senwes (Marble Hall and Groblersdal), Nelspruit and Onderberg it is clear that the industry is in great shape. Of course sprinkled amongst the youngsters are some silver haired (or as in my case – no haired) elders to help where experience is needed. It is great to see the younger generation coming through, full of enthusiasm, new thoughts and energy.

I travelled with the A Team (Sam from Citrus Academy, Jonny from CGA Cultivar Company, Rob from River Bioscience /XSIT, Lukhanyo from CGA Grower Development Company, Paula and Mitchell from CGA and Sean from CRI), with Hesti (CGA) and MC (CRI) making cameo appearances. We would like to thank the growers for their hospitality and the CGA Board members (Piet, Charles, Andrew and Cornel) for leading the conversations. The arrangements were excellent thanks to Tanya's attention to detail.

Thank you also to Nedbank (Ivor and Janko) for sponsoring the three roadshows and joining us at the meetings – fortunately I did my Discovery Vitality test before the roadshows as the excellent braais and lemonades will no doubt impact my waistline, cholesterol and weight.

Paul travelled with the B (Best) Team of Vaughan (CRI), Albert and Precious (CGA), Jacomien (CA), Andrew (CGA GDC), Tevan (CGA CCC), and Sean T (RBX), that were hosted equally well in a very hot Limpopo. Paul remarked on the strong Board leadership in the region (Smit, Tommie, Andries and Jan-Louis, and Guy) and how growers are shaping and contributing to the CGA.

The main purpose of this year's roadshow was to communicate the levy proposal for the 2025 to 2028 period, and get an indication of support for what is being proposed by the CGA Board. Feedback from the 14 roadshows will be considered by the CGA Board on 13/14 March, when the application to the Minister will be finalised. Growers and interested parties will have an opportunity to comment further on the levy proposal when the National Agricultural Marketing Council (NAMC) call for comments before approaching the Minister.

Next week the A team heads off to the Eastern Cape with grower roadshows in Patensie (Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February), Sundays River (Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February) and East Cape Midlands (Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> February). Looking forward to meeting all the growers in the Eastern Cape at 14h30, followed by a braai. Team B travel to the Boland (Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February), Citrusdal (Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February) and then Northern Cape (Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> February).

### **GROWER INDABA: PORT**

All citrus growers in southern Africa should have received an invitation to the Port Indaba which is scheduled for 8 March in Pretoria. If you are a citrus grower and have not received the invitation please contact [tanya@cga.co.za](mailto:tanya@cga.co.za) so that we can ensure we have your correct contact details.

The Indaba is restricted to CGA members (citrus growers) – since space is restricted please RSVP to [tanya@cga.co.za](mailto:tanya@cga.co.za) by no later than 5 March.