

FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO

“He who rejects change is the architect of decay.”
(Harold Wilson)

CGA BOARD MEETING

This week the CGA Board of Directors gathered for the 75th meeting of the CGA Board. Half the CGA regions went through elections of their regional directors this year. In Letsitele, both Jan-Louis Pretorius and Andries Van Wyngaardt were re-elected, as were Hannes De Waal and Hennie Ehlers for the Sunday's River Valley. For the Senwes region, Piet Engelbrecht and Charles Rossouw were re-elected as well. Guy Whitaker (Limpopo River), Paul Bristow (Zimbabwe), Per Nøddeboe (eSwatini), and Tommie Landman (Hoedspruit) were all retained for a further two-year term.

CHANGE: EASTERN CAPE MIDLANDS

Dr Jock Danckwerts' term as a CGA director has come to an end. Jock was appointed to the CGA board in 2002, but his involvement began before the formation of the CGA and Citrus Research International (CRI). Jock served in citrus research committees prior to deregulation and then was instrumental in the creation of CRI as we know it today. Drawing on his own research experience as an ecology scientist, he helped to establish the technical and research capacity that has underpinned the successful progress of the citrus industry. Jock became the first chairman of the CRI board in 2001 and continued in that role until 2010. His participation in institutions like the Citrus Improvement Scheme Advisory Committee was truly significant and helped to ensure growers have access to high quality trees. Probably his most important contribution has been attracting and retaining key staff within CRI and the CGA Group at various times. Jock was closely involved in setting up the CRI technology spinoffs River BioScience and Xsit, and the CGA Cultivar Company – which themselves continue to make significant impact.

Jock's contributions were recognised by CRI when he received a CRI Technical Merit Award in 2010, and by the CGA when he was one of the first recipients of the CGA Legends Award in 2014. Jock, we thank you for your hard work and dedication to the citrus industry. Your drive to ensure that sound principles and solid reasoning are the basis for decisions are deeply appreciated. Meetings were always more colourful, and slightly longer, when you were there.

Lindsay Danckwerts has been elected as the new CGA regional director for the Eastern Cape Midlands.

CHANGE: PATENSIE

Phillip Dempsey joined the CGA board as the Patensie CGA director in 2010. His term has now also come to an end, and Fredri Kok has been elected to take over the reins. Soon after joining the CGA board, Phillip was asked to sit on the Citrus Academy board, and very soon after that he became the CA board chairman in 2012. He continues to serve in that role, and we hope he will continue to do so for some time. Phillip's hard work and guidance have largely gone under the radar, but the success of the CA in building industry skills and capacity is a testament to his leadership. Phillip, we sincerely appreciate your time and contributions, and we are glad that you have agreed to continue to serve on the CA Board.

CGA BI TEAM – VIRTUAL INFORMATION SESSION

The CGA BI Team will be hosting its **first virtual information session** on **Friday, 10 April 2026**, from **09:00 to 10:00**.

This session will provide practical guidance on navigating the CGA website and accessing key information. In addition, the team will showcase the enhanced interactive dashboards, highlighting their new features and functionality.

Join the session here:

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/37132844799820?p=x1qW9cnR3qpyS4wxG8>

INTERESTING FACTS

In the ancient Mediterranean, citrus fruits were rare luxury items. Romans used them to decorate their homes, and they were even given as gifts to kings.

CGA GROUP INFO

CGA VIRTUAL INFORMATION SESSION

Providing practical guidelines on navigating the CGA website and accessing key information

Date: Friday, 10 April 2026

Time: 09:00 – 10:00

Venue: Virtual

Link:

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/37132844799820?p=x1qW9cnR3qpyS4wxG8>