

THE HART BOARD

Terms of Reference



The Hart Field-Site Group (Hart) invite nominations from individuals who have a passion for broadacre agriculture and a willingness to work with a board committed to upholding Hart's vision, purpose and values.

About Us

Hart, established in 1982, is South Australia's premier agronomic field trial site, managed by farmers and other industry professionals to provide independent research that is timely, relevant and unbiased, as well as cutting edge and innovative.

Located between Blyth and Brinkworth in South Australia's Mid-North, Hart is situated on 40 hectares owned by the Hart Field-Site Group Inc.

Our Board

Hart is proudly managed by a board of twelve volunteers, all with a passion for broadacre agriculture.

With a deliberate mix of farmers and other professionals from across the ag industry, board members collectively provide a vast range of skills, experience and networks to the group.

We cover a broad geographical area as our team farm and work across a large part of the Mid-North of South Australia and beyond.

Board meetings are held regularly to review and manage operations and to plan strategically for the future which means we have a clear and consistent focus; to identify the research areas that will enable growers to remain profitable and sustainable.

Staff employed by the group are ultimately responsible to the board.

Time commitment for board members

The Hart board meet seven times a year including the AGM.

We host four key events annually; Getting The Crop In seminar, Winter Walk, Hart Field Day & Spring Twilight Walk.

**Additional workshops associated with specific projects are also held but do not necessarily require the attendance of board members.*

We also ask board members to attend working bees, pre-event dinners, and other social events from time to time. Opportunities to attend industry workshops / seminars or professional development training may also be offered.

Board member terms are for three years and are on a volunteer, unpaid basis.

Signed agreements

All board members are required to sign a confidentiality and conflict of interest agreement.

Your role as a board member

As a group of volunteers, we understand that your time is precious. The structure of our group allows us to employ paid staff to take care of much of the operational side of Hart. As a result, we can be fairly clear about what we ask of our volunteers:

1. **Make a commitment to attend board meetings**

The board currently meet seven times per year (not including events).

Sometimes work and family commitments mean you will be unable to attend a particular board meeting and this is OK.

However, please make attending meetings a priority and be sure to register your apology when you are unable to be there.

2. **Be an active, respectful participant**

This means we encourage you to check and respond to emails, read meeting minutes and agendas, contribute to discussion and decision making.

Respect the views of others, be on time, stay focussed, allow everyone to be heard.

Abide by your legal obligations as a board member.

3. **Attend Hart events and working bees wherever possible**

Promote Hart and Hart's activities when possible.

Put your hand up to take responsibility for some of the roles our volunteers complete i.e. share the load and complete those tasks assigned to you in a timely manner.

4. **Share your strengths and networks**

Each of you have access to vast networks, experience in a range of areas and skill sets that can be valuable to our group.

Please make suggestions and share openly.

5. **Remember safety**

Look out for yourself and others. We all have a responsibility to ensure the safety of everyone at Hart; board members, staff, other volunteers, visitors etc.

6. **Help maintain relationships and pass on feedback**

Relationships are important so we encourage you to engage with our members, volunteers, sponsors, funders and other stakeholders in a positive manner.

We are always grateful for feedback so please pass on what you hear (as well as your own thoughts) so we can act if required.

Nomination process

We'd love to hear more about you. Please send us an email declaring your intention to nominate. Be sure to tell us about your interest or experience in agriculture, any areas you might be particularly passionate about and why you would like to join the Hart board. Please also tell us about any other skills you may have that could be of benefit to our group.

Please email to Hart's Executive Officer: Sandy Kimber admin@hartfieldsite.org.au

Selection process

Successful candidates are elected by vote at our AGM in October of each year for a three year term, at the end of which they may choose to either re-nominate or retire.

More information

Please feel free to contact us:

Ryan Wood, Chairman, Hart Field-Site Group, 0439 563 833

Sandy Kimber, Executive Officer, Hart Field-Site Group, 0427 423 154

To learn more about Hart visit www.hartfieldsite.org.au

Updated September 2021