



LIEBE GROUP MEDIA RELEASE – THURSDAY 20 APRIL 2017

Lead CSIRO researcher appointed as Liebe Patron

The Liebe Group are pleased to announce the appointment of Dr Michael Robertson, Deputy and Science Director of CSIRO Agriculture, as the inaugural Liebe Patron earlier this week.

As Patron of the Liebe Group, Dr Robertson will provide support, knowledge and experience to the Liebe Group through advocacy and advisement.

Rebecca McGregor, Liebe Group Executive Officer, said that “we will work closely with Michael to promote Liebe’s vision and to advocate the value of grower groups in the agricultural industry.”

“The connection between the Liebe Group and Dr Robertson will assist us in furthering the facilitation of ongoing Participatory Action Research (PAR), between growers and researchers, and will aim to strengthen the relationship between Liebe and CSIRO.”

Dr Robertson’s research background is in crop agronomy and simulation modelling, where his work has aimed to analyse and understand broad acre farming systems to inform better management regimes. He is now the Deputy Director of CSIRO’s Agriculture Flagship, and is leading an initiative in ‘digital agriculture’.

When Dr Robertson first moved to WA he worked with the Liebe Group on projects in precision agriculture, technology adoption, and grain and graze. Dr Robertson said that he is excited to reconnect with the group and growers in the region, and take on the role as the inaugural Liebe Patron.

“I have been a long-time admirer of the Liebe Group, not only for its longevity but also the diversity and relevance of research and development it does for its members. I am looking forward to working closely with the group and especially finding ways that CSIRO can be more effective in its research and development for Northern Ag region farmers.”

Grower members are also very positive and excited about the opportunities Dr Robertson, as Liebe Patron, brings to the group, which is celebrating 20 years of operation in 2017.

Ross Fitzsimons, Liebe Group President said “Dr Robertson’s respect within the professional industry and strong history in the region made him the ideal advocate for our group.”

“We are excited for the potential opportunities and connections this partnership will offer to support improvements across our farming businesses. The Liebe Group is a well-established grower group, operating for two decades in WA and with opportunities like this we are excited for the future ahead.”

The Liebe Patronage was developed by growers to ensure they remain well connected to the research community and is a leading initiative amongst the grower group network in WA.

The Liebe Group is a grower driven, not for profit organisation in the Wheatbelt of Western Australia. It is a leading ‘grass-roots’ group providing its members with locally relevant and innovative Research, Development and Extension (R, D & E).

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