



# Award for local grower

WOORINEN stonefruit farmer Gaethan Cutri has this week been awarded one of Horticulture Australia's Young Leader Awards.

Awarded to up to five people within the horticulture industry, the award recognises leadership from young people in horticulture.

Mr Cutri's application for the award highlighted the need for a systemised approach to farming, in particular in reference to the need for systems and processes to be implemented for there to be a successful succession plan.

"There needs to be clear plans for succession in place, especially considering the average age of the Australian farmer is increasing, as fewer children come back to take over the family farm," Mr Cutri said.



**Gaethan Cutri**

"And even if there are no children to take over the farm, it is still crucial that there be a plan

for succession so that others can step into any of the roles of farming to free up the owners of the business.

"Our business has gone through a massive phase of transition, and one where we are slowly trying to move away from the role of being master technicians to being managers and entrepreneurs.

"I believe this shift is vital for the long term sustainability of any business our size."

As part of the award, Mr Cutri will attend a conference assist his continued development in the industry, and will also be flown to Sydney at attend the award presentation on November 26. Mr Cutri returned to work on the family property full-time four years ago, after working at a law firm in Melbourne for five years.