



*The Grassland Society of NSW Inc.*

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# **PASTURE SYSTEMS:** *Managing for a variable climate*

Queanbeyon NSW 18-19th July 2007

Australian  
**Farm Journal**



Because the best is just the start.

## The Grassland Society of NSW Inc.

The Grassland Society of NSW was formed in March 1985, and now has 460 members and associates, 70% of whom are farmers and graziers. The balance is made up of agricultural scientists, farm advisers, consultants, representatives of agribusiness organisations, rural research funding bodies and the rural press.

The aims of the Society are to provide opportunities to exchange information, ideas and experiences relating to grasslands through conferences, field days and socially. The Society has established branches throughout the state, holds an annual conference and various field days, and publishes a quarterly newsletter.

A further aim of the Society is to advance the investigation of problems affecting grasslands and their management, and to encourage the adoption into practice of the results of research and practical experience. This is reflected at the annual conference, where presented papers are a mixture of the latest science, and experiences of practising landholders.

Membership of the Society is open to any person or organisation interested in grassland management and the aims of the Society. Ordinary (including family or farm), student and corporate memberships are available.

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ISBN 978 0 7347 1845 7

Layout and cover design: JAT Designs  
Cover photo credits: Satellite image originally processed by the Bureau of Meteorology from the geostationary satellite MTSAT-1R operated by the Japan Meteorological Agency. Other photos courtesy of NSW Department of Primary Industries.

Citation: Proceedings of the 22nd Annual Conference of the Grassland Society of NSW. Eds D Garden, H Dove and T Bolger. (Grassland Society of NSW, Orange, NSW).

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\* *Highlighted papers presented at conference as well as in poster display*

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### Disclaimers

The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing. However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that information upon which they rely is up-to-date, and that such information does not take the place of professional advice. The Grassland Society of NSW, Inc. is not able to take individual circumstances into account, and takes no responsibility for any consequences which may result from use of any information presented here. Mention of a company or product name does not imply endorsement by Grassland Society of NSW, Inc.

## Preface

A very warm welcome to all members attending this, the 22nd Annual Conference of the Grassland Society of NSW. An equally warm welcome to those who are not members of this Society. I encourage you to join us and enjoy the many benefits of membership. Application forms are available from the registration desk or can be printed from our internet site, [www.grasslandnsw.com.au](http://www.grasslandnsw.com.au).

This is not the first conference of the NSW Grassland Society to take place at Queanbeyan. Since our formation in 1985, there have been several very successful conferences held in this city. This conference promises to be of a similarly high standard, and is designed to provide everyone with the opportunity to hear, discuss and see cutting edge, topical technology in a relaxed environment.

Plant and animal production depends heavily on new technology as well as sound scientific principles. The Grassland Society is a forum that brings together producers, agronomists, agri-business firms, animal scientists and teachers of agriculture to review and exchange high-quality information relevant to grassland farming. The objective is the promotion of animal and plant production systems that embrace improved efficiencies and environmental responsibility. Pastures, both native and introduced, are the powerhouse of agriculture in all forms across Australia. They sustain above-ground grazing animals and provide for microbial activity under the ground. In turn, pastures depend on good soil health to maintain production, suppress invasion by unproductive species and protect otherwise bare ground from erosion.

This conference examines the very topical subject of variable climate as it confronts producers and technologists, within the overall theme of "Pasture System Management". The organising committee has put much time and effort into selecting expert speakers to cover relevant topics that will bring delegates up to date with important aspects of climate change. The conference convenors, Col Langford and Doug Alcock and their team are to be congratulated and thanked for putting together such a stimulating program of formal sessions and paddock tours.

I would like to acknowledge our many sponsors, representing the corporate and government sectors who regularly support the Society. Conferences of this nature do not happen without the substantial assistance of our sponsors. I encourage all conference delegates to visit the well-prepared commercial displays and exhibits. They are full of current information on new pasture varieties, fertilizer products, herbicides and management strategies to assist producers and their advisers. Please take time to talk with representatives of the trade exhibits. They are a valuable source of information and are always happy to discuss product developments with conference delegates.

Finally, I thank all those who are here to enjoy and learn from this conference. The Grassland Society is keen to maintain the high standards and tradition of previous years. We willingly accept suggestions to improve future activities. Please feel free to let any member of the committee know your thoughts in this regard. After all, the Society is only as effective as its membership, and depends on them for its continued existence.

Best wishes for a most enjoyable conference.

Mick Duncan.

President.