




THE GRASSLAND SOCIETY OF NSW INC.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE



**PERENNIALS:
THE KEY TO
PASTURE STABILITY**



**Wednesday 5th June
Thursday 6th June
1991**

*Ex-Services' Club
Anson Street, Orange N.S.W. 2800*

PROCEEDINGS OF THE 6TH CONFERENCE

PERENNIALS: THE KEY TO PASTURE STABILITY

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE SIXTH ANNUAL
CONFERENCE OF THE GRASSLAND
SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES**

**Invited Papers and Poster Summaries from the Conference
Held at Orange Ex-Services Club, ORANGE NSW
June 5-6, 1991**

Edited by David Michalk
NSW Agriculture & Fisheries
Agricultural Research & Veterinary Centre
ORANGE NSW 2800

Reviewers:

Barry Smart, Drew Wright, Malcolm Campbell, John Read,
Jim Dellow, Peter Dowling, Ralph van Gelder and Bruce
Auld.

THE GRASSLAND SOCIETY OF N.S.W INC.

A unique blend of people with a common interest
in developing our most important resource -
our Grassland

The Grassland Society of NSW was formed in March 1985. The Society now has 770 members and associates, 75% of whom are farmers and graziers. The balance are agricultural scientists, farm advisers, consultants, and executives or representatives of organisations concerned with fertilizer, seeds, chemicals, and machinery.

The aims of the society are to provide opportunities for members to meet in conference, at field days or socially, to exchange information, ideas and experiences relating to grasslands.

Other aims of the society are to advance the investigation of problems affecting grassland husbandry and to encourage the adoption into practice of results of research and practical experience. The Society holds an annual conference, publishes a quarterly newsletter, holds field days, and is establishing regional branches throughout the State.

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

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PREFACE

As one travels throughout this vast land of Australia, ones eye is caught by the ever changing environment. The ability of our native grasses to cope with our naturally dry climates is quite remarkable, and the identification and management of those species able to thrive under these conditions is a pursuit with which we must all apply ourselves if we are to survive the economic pressures of the 90s and beyond.

The exotics which have come to our shores either through accident or purposeful introduction have also adapted well to our harsh environment. One cannot help to notice how phalaris has colonised our roadsides in the Tablelands, or how subterranean clover and medics have become ubiquitous in the Slopes and near plains. However, there is still a need for suitable perennial legumes for pasture improvement in this State, and those which we do have, such as lucerne and white clover, are difficult to maintain under the environmental and managerial stresses we imposed on them.

Equally, some of our native grasses and shrubs plus a large complement of introduced species have adapted too well to changing environment, and have become troublesome weeds of crops and pastures. Barley grass and vulpia are good examples of species which have down-graded the value of our pastoral resources in a very large area of our State.

To maximise use of desirable species and minimise the impact of weeds, producers must be keenly atten-

tive and receptive to new ideas and methods developed and promoted by our research and advisory partners.

No conference can address all the problems confronting farmers in the present rural crisis, but I am sure that the theme of this program, "Perennials: the Key to Pasture Stability", focuses our attention in the right direction if we are to achieve low-input sustainable systems. The papers included in this proceedings will hopefully go some way towards furthering our knowledge on how we can manipulate, to advantage, our grassland systems through species selection, grazing management, and herbicide usage.

At the same time we must be vigilant to ensure that our methods maintain or improve the quality of the environment. The forum on aerial agriculture focuses attention on the concerns of the community at large, and how we must respond as an industry to minimise the impact of environmental pollution through research, education, and self-regulation.

I congratulate the Organising Committee and Conference Convenor for organising the topics for discussion that will lead to our further understanding of "Pasture Stability".

I am also delighted to acknowledge the nomination of Hugh Ross as the first Life Member of our Society

Graham R. Brown

Society President

OUR FIRST LIFE MEMBER -

HUGH ROSS



In February 1990, Hugh Ross, "Glengarry", Springside, was elected as our first life member. Presentation of the award was made in absentia at the Fifth Annual Conference dinner held in Queenbeyan last year, and in person, at the Management Committee meeting on April 17, 1991.

Hugh attended the investigative committee meeting at Orange Ex-Services Club in July 1984, with co-founders of the Grassland Society of New South Wales, John Read, Drew Wright, and others. He argued strongly and successfully for the formation of a Society. He also solicited the support of the Royal Agricultural Society, and was Chairman of our informative committee at the RAS Showground in Sydney on March 30, 1985. From the original 26 members who attended that meeting, the Society has now grown to a membership of 770 of which 75% are producers.

Hugh was instrumental in nominating our first president, Peter Wrigley. Through Hugh's efforts, the Grassland Society gained the support of the business, industry and farming sectors of this State. He served on the Management Committee from 1985 to 1988.

All members of the State Executive join with the members of the Society in offering sincere thanks to Hugh for his work, enthusiasm and encouragement. His efforts are rewarded in the growing strength and ability of the Grassland Society of New South Wales to assist producers to maximise returns from our most important resource - our grasslands.

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