



THE GRASSLAND SOCIETY OF NSW INC.

17th Annual Conference

“Pastures with Purpose”



Forbes, 31 July – 1 August 2002

The Grassland Society of NSW Inc.

A unique blend of people with a common interest in developing our most important resource—
our Grasslands

The Grassland Society of NSW was formed in March 1985. The Society now has 1200 members and associates, 70% of which are farmers and graziers. The balance is made up of agricultural scientists, farm advisers, consultants, and executives or representatives of organisations concerned with fertilisers, 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 has established 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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“Pastures with Purpose”



PROCEEDINGS OF THE SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE GRASSLAND SOCIETY OF NSW INC.

Invited, poster and contributed papers from the
Conference held at Forbes Services Memorial
Club, Forbes
31 July - 1 August 2002

Edited by Alison Bowman

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Preface

Frank McRoe, President, NSW Grassland Society

Welcome to the 17th Annual Conference of the Grassland Society of NSW Inc. The Western Slopes and Plains branch and the Forbes district are your hosts and hope that all delegates enjoy the conference and what this diverse district has to offer. Recent additions to the districts growing list of enterprises include rice and mung beans.

The title of the conference "Pastures with Purpose" acknowledges the diverse range of environments and enterprises encountered across central NSW. Whether the pastures are used for wool or lamb, beef, dairying or in cropping rotations they play an important role, not only in production, but also in environmental management. The management of our natural resources is a key issue today, and will become increasingly important in the future. The producer papers and farm tours provide clear evidence of responsible resource management.

Balancing the pasture feed supply typifies the cyclical nature of the Australian climate. With over 60% of the state drought declared and another 10% considered marginal in June, producers are again faced with balancing these limited feed and water supplies and making management decisions to conserve resources. Conserving the pasture base should be a priority on any property.

Ongoing research is important to maintain the profitability and sustainability of our agricultural industries.

The contributed papers and posters are an integral component of our conference so take the time to discuss these with the respective authors.

The 2003 Annual Conference will be a joint conference between the Grassland Society of Victoria and Grassland Society of NSW. To be held June 13 and 14 2003 at the Albury Convention and Performing Arts Centre, this initiative will allow southern members, many of whom have dual membership, the opportunity to showcase the border district.

On your behalf, I want to take the opportunity to thank our many sponsors, whose support is essential for the success of both the Society and annual Conference. The support of NSW Agriculture into the Society and Conference is acknowledged. To those running the branches and branch activity thanks for your continued support. Without you the Society would not function.

The 2002 conference organising committee, under the leadership of Dr Alison Bowman, has put in a tremendous amount of work and delivered a program that meets not only producer needs, but will also stimulate advisors and consultants. We hope that you enjoy the conference and go away with new ideas and renewed enthusiasm for the next twelve months.