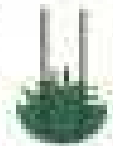




Grassland Society of  
Victoria Inc  
and

Grassland Society of  
New South Wales Inc



# Grassland Farming - Rocket Science

2003 Annual  
Conference  
Proceedings

June 11-13 2003  
ALBURY, NSW



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First Joint Annual Conference  
of the Grassland Society of Victoria Inc.  
and the Grassland Society of NSW Inc.

11 – 13 June 2003  
Albury, New South Wales

## Grassland Farming – Rocket Science

Proceedings of the First Joint Conference of the  
Grassland Societies of Victoria and NSW

Invited papers and poster abstracts of the 44th Annual Conference of the Grassland Society of Victoria Inc. and the 18th Annual Conference of the Grassland Society of NSW Inc., a joint conference held at the Albury Convention and Performing Arts Centre, Albury, New South Wales.

### The Grassland Society of Victoria Inc.

The Grassland Society of Victoria Inc. is the peak farmer organisation dedicated to the transfer of information and technology related to temperate grasslands of clover and grass.

Formed in 1959, the Grassland Society of Victoria Inc. has branches in Victoria (seven), South Australia (one), and Tasmania (one) and welcomes new members (student, ordinary, corporate) with an interest in grassland farming.

Pasture establishment, maintenance, utilisation, persistence, and research are key areas of interest for the 2,000 members of the society, 80% of which are in primary production.

The society has a travel grant program, awards a student bursary annually, publishes a newsletter six times per year, and holds an annual conference. Branches hold seminars and field days throughout the year.

### The Grassland Society of NSW Inc.

The Grassland Society of NSW was formed in March 1985. The society has 1,200 financial members, 75% of whom are farmers and graziers. The balance are agricultural scientists, farm advisers, consultants, and executives or representatives of companies providing fertilizers, 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, to advance the investigation of problems in pastures and to encourage the adoption of research results and producer experiences into practice.

The society holds an annual conference and publishes a quarterly newsletter, and, through its six branches, holds field days and seminars.

Membership (individual, farm family, student, corporate) is open to any person or company interested in grassland management and the aims of the society.

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Citation: Proceedings of the First Joint Conference of the Grassland Societies of Victoria and NSW. (44th Conference of the Grassland Society of Victoria and 18th Conference of the Grassland Society of NSW).

Papers refereed by Haydn Lloyd-Davies and Hugh Dove.  
Editing, design, and layout by Liz Jacobsen.  
Cover design by Linda Bennison.

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Published by the Grassland Society of Victoria Inc. PO Box 525, Mornington, Victoria 3931. Telephone (03) 5974 4066. Facsimile (03) 5974 1141.  
E-mail office@grasslands.org.au

Printed by Henry Cotton Press, 13 Mason Street, Warragul, Victoria 3820.  
Telephone (03) 5623 1191.

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## Convenor's Foreword

Bigger and better than ever before: that's our goal for 2003!

To create a stimulating learning environment for southern Australia's leading-edge farmers, the Grassland Societies of Victoria and New South Wales present their inaugural Joint Grassland Conference in Albury. Held at a centrally located venue, with all facilities at our fingertips, this conference creates the perfect platform to learn how rocket science (or high-end technology) can enhance your grassland farming practices.

Both Grassland Societies share the aim of facilitating, encouraging, and fostering the transfer of information to members and encouraging the adoption of the latest research that is practical, profitable, and sustainable. This year, the combined resources of the two societies give you an unprecedented opportunity to hear, not just one, but five international speakers. Our high-calibre presenters will not only review the major producer-funded projects of the last decade, but also reveal to you the key findings arising from millions of dollars of technological research.

As conference organisers, we are very mindful of providing you with good value for money, and we believe we have achieved this, despite the fact that we are unable to secure Farmbis assistance. That the conference is affordable is helped in no small way by our sponsors, whom we encourage you to support.

The Grassland Conference tradition of bus tours is also bigger and better this year. The Albury-Wodonga branch of the GSV has organised an impressive array

of tours on both Wednesday and Thursday afternoons. It's always a dilemma choosing which tour to take part in. Well, this year, you can take two! I thoroughly recommend these tours to you.

Our thoughts, goals, and aspirations are all different. But what I regularly hear from people after a Grassland Conference is that, despite the difficulties in getting away from the farm (be they family or work pressures, fire, flood, drought, or other dilemmas), they say: 'Thank goodness I came. It's charged my batteries. I go away refreshed, enthused, and encouraged, with a whole lot of new ideas or existing thoughts reinforced.' I'm sure I will hear similar sentiments this year.

The Grassland Societies of Victoria and New South Wales wish to thank Rutherglen Research Institute (Department of Primary Industries, Victoria) and NSW Agriculture for their assistance.

My sincere thanks to the hardworking, well-travelled, and dedicated conference committee members and others who have helped make this event a reality. If you find yourself sitting next to a committee member, please give them some feedback on your impressions of the conference.

Thank you for attending, and enjoy your time in Albury-Wodonga. Charge your batteries! Discover and discuss the links between rocket science and grassland farming by participating fully in our joint conference and afterwards take time to reflect on the outcome. Remember: the best way to get ahead is to get started.

**Hugh Watson**

**2003 Conference Convenor**

## 2003 Conference Committee

Hugh Watson (conference convenor), Table Top  
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John Francis, Albury  
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