

'Adapting mixed farms to future environments'

25th Annual Conference
of The Grassland Society of NSW Inc.

DUBBO 28-29 JULY 2010

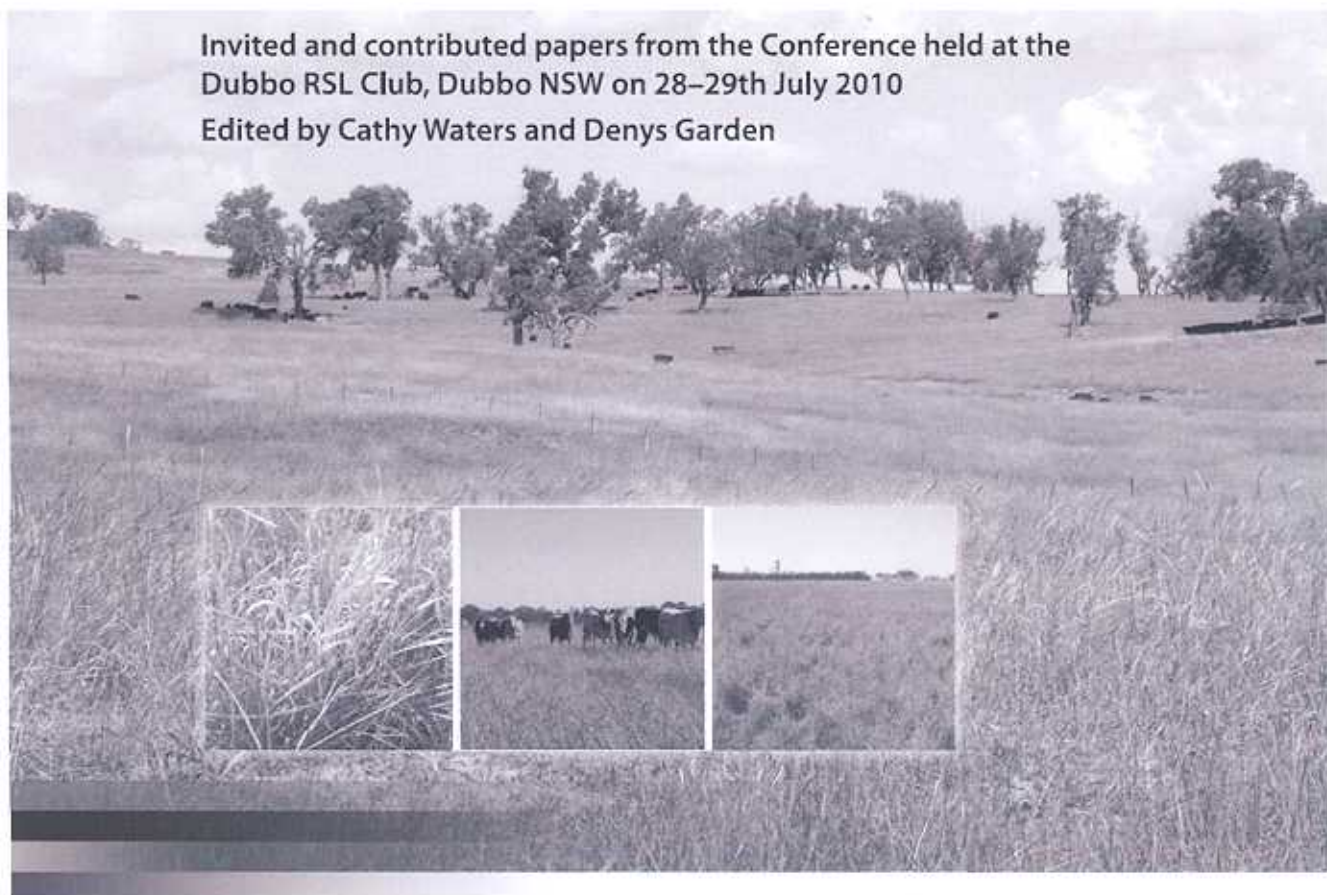


THE GRASSLAND SOCIETY OF NSW INC.

'Adapting mixed farms to future environments'

25th Annual Conference
of The Grassland Society of NSW Inc.

Invited and contributed papers from the Conference held at the
Dubbo RSL Club, Dubbo NSW on 28–29th July 2010
Edited by Cathy Waters and Denys Garden



THE GRASSLAND SOCIETY OF NSW INC.

The Grassland Society of NSW

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 about 500 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 fertilisers, seeds, chemicals and machinery.

The aims of the Society are to advance the investigation of problems affecting grasslands 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.

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Preface

I extend a very warm welcome to all members attending this milestone event in the life of The Grassland Society of NSW, the 25th Annual Conference.

I would also like to welcome those who are not members of the Society and encourage you to join us. The benefits of membership are well worth the annual subscription of \$50.00.

This is the second conference to be held at Dubbo and we look forward to a stimulating conference and the farm tours of the Dubbo district. The tours are an important feature of our conferences and invariably provide visitors to the district with an insight into agricultural production at the local level.

Plant and animal production depend on new technologies to complement established agricultural science. The Grassland Society brings together producers, agronomists, agri-business firms, animal scientists and teachers of agriculture to review and exchange high quality information relevant to grassland farming. One important objective of the Society is the promotion of agricultural systems that combine improved efficiencies and environmental responsibility. Pastures, both native and introduced, are the powerhouse of agriculture in all forms across Australia. They sustain grazing animals but importantly, provide for microbial activity under the ground. Pastures depend on and improve soil health. In turn, they produce forage for animal consumption, suppress invasion from unproductive species and protect otherwise bare ground from erosion.

This conference examines the vital subjects of soil fertility, pasture production and animal performance. As well, natural resource management and its effect on animals and soils are discussed by prominent scientists.

The organising Committee has put much time and effort into selecting expert speakers to bring delegates up to date with current and new aspects of pasture and animal technologies. The conference convener, Cathy Waters and her

team are to be congratulated and thanked for putting together such a stimulating program of formal sessions and farm tours.

I would like to acknowledge our many sponsors representing corporate and government sectors that regularly support The Grassland Society. Conferences of this nature do not happen without the substantial assistance of our sponsors. Furthermore, I encourage all conference delegates to visit the well-prepared commercial displays and exhibits. They are full of current information on new pasture varieties, fertiliser products, herbicides and management strategies, all aimed at assisting 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 of you who are here to enjoy and learn from this conference. The Grassland Society is keen to maintain the high standards of previous years, and we invite suggestions to improve future activities. Please feel free to let any member of the Organising Committee know your thoughts in this regard. After all, The Grassland Society is only as effective as its members and depends on them for continued existence. I again encourage non-members to join and enjoy the many benefits of membership. Application forms can be printed from our internet site: www.grasslandnsw.com.au and are available from the registration desk at this conference.

Best wishes for a most enjoyable conference.

Mick Duncan
President