

INAUGURATION OF
THE AUSTRALIAN RANGELAND SOCIETY

A meeting will be held in Canberra on Sunday January 19, 1975 to inaugurate an Australian Rangeland Society.

The principal aims of the Society are to

1. promote the art and science of using Australia's rangeland resources.
2. provide a medium of interchange between people within and outside formal institutions.
3. develop an Australian philosophy for rangeland use taking into account all its alternative uses.

A number of us have felt for a long time that there is a need to provide a common meeting ground for all those working in the arid and semi arid lands of Australia whether they be owners and managers of pastoral stations or scientists working on specific sections of the pastoral ecosystem. At present meetings held at irregular intervals and a number of different journals provide a tenuous link between scattered rangeland workers. It is hoped that this Society will provide a uniting forum for views, and reports of work which will eventually lead to the development of an Australian approach to the problems of rangeland use and even in time will become an authoritative voice on rangeland management.

Rangelands occupy in excess of 75% of the total area of Australia and they make significant contributions to the wealth of the nation from stock, tourism, recreation and they are the habitat of much of the wildlife peculiar to the country.

The Society hopes that it will develop among its members a sense of identity with the area in which they work.

A working group to investigate the potential for an Australian Society was formed at the joint U.S./Australia panel meeting on range science meeting at Alice Springs in March, 1974. The working group has received sufficient encouragement from over 150 people to justify the setting up of the Society. The group considers that it can operate the Society, hold an annual meeting and publish a journal for an annual cost of \$10 per member.

A memorandum of association and articles of association have been drawn up and the whole submitted to the Registrar of Companies in Western Australia so that the Society may be formally incorporated.

The promoters of the Society intend holding the inaugural meeting in Canberra in association with the forthcoming ANZAAS meeting. It is hoped that you will be able to attend. If you cannot will you publish the meeting as widely as possible by placing the letter on the notice board.

The agenda for the inaugural Australian Rangeland Society general meeting is as follows:-

Date: Sunday, January 19, 1975

Place: Geology lecture theatre, Australian National University

Times: 11.00 am Opening D.G.Wilcox
11.05 am Business - agenda O.B.Williams, Chairman
12.30 pm Luncheon, Bruce Hall, A.N.U.
1.30 pm Rangelands in terms of regulatory roles and extension functions of Governments R.Condon, Western Land Commission
2.15 pm Rangeland Science, education and extension R.Lange, University of Adelaide
3.00 pm Break
3.15 pm Aspects of nutrient cycling in rangelands. E.Christie, Queensland
Department of Primary Industry
3.45 pm Aspects of dietary selection by rangeland herbivore A.Wilson, CSIRO, Deniliquin
4.15 pm Scope and programme of the A.R.S. Open discussion
5.15 pm Close

A.L.Payne
Convenor