



The Australian Rangeland Society

RANGE MANAGEMENT NEWSLETTER

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FROM THE EDITOR

Noelene Duckett, 7 Belcarra Place, The Woodlands, Texas, USA, 77382. Email: nduckett@ozemail.com.au

Welcome to the July issue of the *Range Management Newsletter*.

This newsletter begins with an interesting article from Gary Bastin and Ruth Coates. They report on progress within the first phase of ACRIS (the Australian Collaborative Rangeland Information System) – testing data quality and the ability to collate information from several sources into an Australia-wide reporting system. Using data from 5 pilot regions across the rangelands over the period from about 1992-2002, this study showed that, despite some difficulties, it was generally possible to develop a framework for reporting rangeland ‘change’ over a wider area. This is terrific news for those of us who have ever collected, collated or analysed rangeland monitoring data! The article goes on to detail several types of changes within the pilot regions, and also discusses the major themes which ACRIS plans to report on in the future.

Now on a much more sombre note – I, along with many other ARS members I’m sure, was saddened to hear of Jill Landsberg’s recent passing. She was a highly respected member of the wider rangelands community and she will be greatly missed. I am grateful to Jacqui Stol for submitting an article on Jill’s life.

Following this, I have included a short article written by Natalie Nelmes which outlines recent progress in the development of Western Australia’s Rangelands Natural Resource Management Strategy.

As usual, this issue includes a number of articles related directly to the Society. Matt Bolam has contributed a very informative communications report of Society business over recent months. Perhaps the biggest news item this month is that the first electronic publication of *The Rangeland Journal* has taken place – it is available on the CSIRO Publishing website at www.publish.csiro.au. Additionally, I am also very pleased to include an edited version of the Director’s report tabled at the 2005 AGM of the Society. This report gives a comprehensive summary of the activities of the Society, and also includes the current financial statements. Tim Ferraro has worked very hard to get the Society up to date financially and it is a pleasure to include these recent reports.

I would also like to remind you of a couple of important dates. Firstly, please note that applications for the ARS Awards close on **30 November 2005** – see page 19 of this issue for further details. Also, plans for the next ARS Biennial Conference are under way – it will be held in Renmark, South Australia from **4-7 September 2006**. Be sure to pencil these dates into your diary now!

The next issue of the *Range Management Newsletter* is due out in November. I would appreciate it if you could please have your contributions to me by late September if possible.

ACRIS – REPORTING CHANGE IN THE RANGELANDS

SUMMARY OF CHANGE IN PILOT REGIONS

Gary Bastin & Ruth Coates, ACRIS Management Unit and the ACRIS Management Committee, CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems, PO Box 2111, Alice Springs NT 0871.
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Reporting on Change

As most readers of the *Range Management Newsletter* would know, reporting on change in the rangelands is a substantial task. The large area, spatial diversity and complexity, and often extreme climatic variability render challenges that many working in the rangelands have grappled with over the years. Yet it is important that we continue to monitor and better understand change in the rangelands, so that we can quickly and effectively act to maintain ecological, economic and social values. If we are to promote our improving management of our natural resource base internationally, it is also vital to report on these values in a consistent and credible way.

The Australian Collaborative Rangeland Information System (ACRIS) is a coordinating mechanism that collates rangeland information from agencies of the States, the Northern Territory, the Commonwealth and from other sources. The ACRIS Management Committee has representatives of Australian and State/NT Governments and a Management Unit co-located with the Desert Knowledge CRC in Alice Springs. When fully functional, ACRIS should allow monitoring and other information reporting change in the rangelands to be widely disseminated amongst rangeland managers, advisers, administrators and those formulating policy – with this article an example of the type of information to be reported.

Reporting capacity

The critical first stage for the ACRIS was testing the quality of our information and our capacity to combine it into a national picture. We have tested the reporting system across five pilot regions (Figure 1). The reporting period roughly covers 1992 to 2002.

Test questions

The ACRIS Management Committee identified five diverse characteristics on which to report, to push all involved to understand different aspects of the system.

These were change in:

- (i) *critical stock forage productivity* (related to the sustainability of the pastoral industry),
- (ii) *native plant species* (an indicator of biodiversity significant to production and conservation),

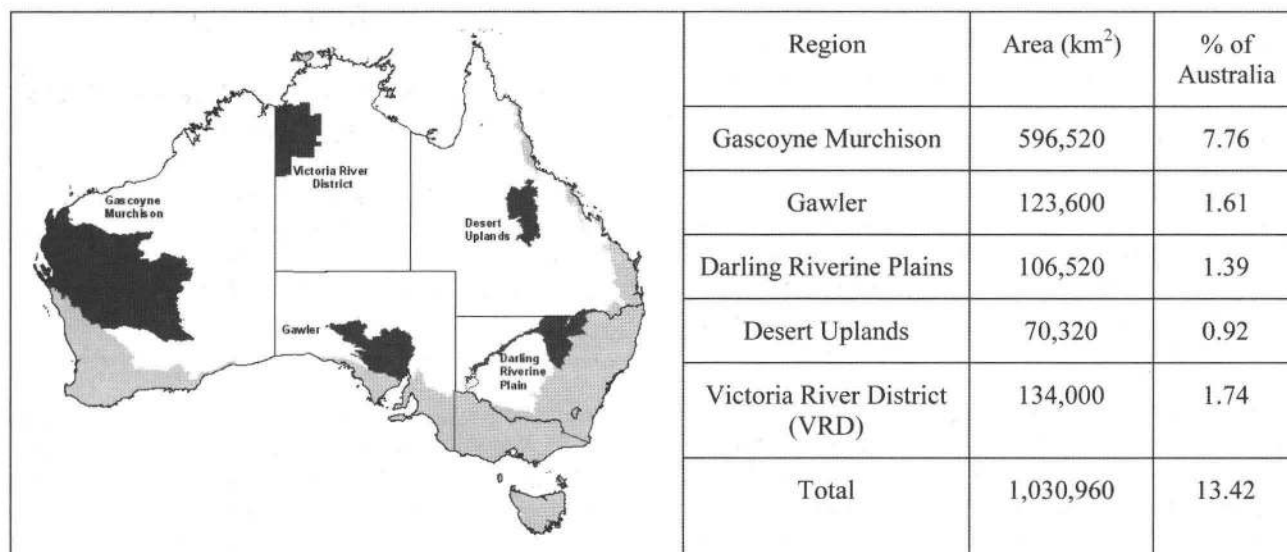


Figure 1. Pilot reporting regions

- (iii) *landscape function* (an indicator of ecosystem efficiency, particularly relating to use of rainfall),
- (iv) *cover* (a basic measure of protection against erosion); and,
- (v) *the capacity for people to change* (a crucial aspect of societal response to environmental problems).

The test has shown that we have a declining information base for monitoring change, many information gaps, and differing quality and coverage of data across the country. The good news is that we have developed a framework for reporting on change across different data types and regions, and can now develop the information system to report across the entire rangelands.

The test has given us a glimpse into what might be happening across five areas of interest. We found that in the pilot regions:

- Improvements were generally seen in the vegetation important for pastoral production;
- The density of native plant species is stable in most areas;
- Landscape function was mostly stable although it decreased in some areas during periods of poor rainfall;
- Tree cover has decreased with clearing in two regions but other components of cover have remained generally stable; and
- Analysis of Australian Bureau of Statistics Census data shows that communities living in the rangelands are becoming less diverse and this may result in a reduced capacity for future change. Separate to these national data, some regional data show that individual regions are adapting to change.

Separating rainfall effects from management

Separating rainfall effects from those due to management remains a key problem when interpreting change in biophysical data. ACRIS is using an approach proposed by Ian Watson and Paul Novelly from the Western Australian Department of Agriculture. This is a matrix of “quality of preceding seasons” by “direction of change” (Table 1) that helps filter short-term seasonal influences from possible change due to grazing management. (Wildfire must also be considered as a cause of change, particularly in northern Australia.)

Table 1. Matrix for helping to separate seasonal effects from management.

Seasonal conditions	Change in reported attribute		
	Decline	No Change	Improvement
Above average	XX	X	~
Average	X	~	√
Below average	~	√	√√

“Quality of seasonal conditions” is based on amount of rainfall in the growth season(s) prior to the monitoring period compared with the long-term record. Columns report the percentage of monitoring sites where reported attributes of vegetation (or landscape) declined, were unchanged or improved.

“√√” indicates that positive change occurred even when seasonal conditions were below average. Conversely, “XX” represents concern because sites show decline when preceding seasonal conditions indicate that no change or improvement should be expected. The diagonal of cells with “~” indicates a neutral effect.

What We Found:

Seasonal conditions as context

Seasonal conditions for the period 1990-2002 are shown in Figure 2 using simulated total standing dry matter from the

Aussie-GRASS pasture growth model averaged across a bioregion in each year. The 1890-2003 long-term mean for each bioregion is shown by the dashed line. Most of the following results are judged by comparison with what would be expected from these seasonal trends.

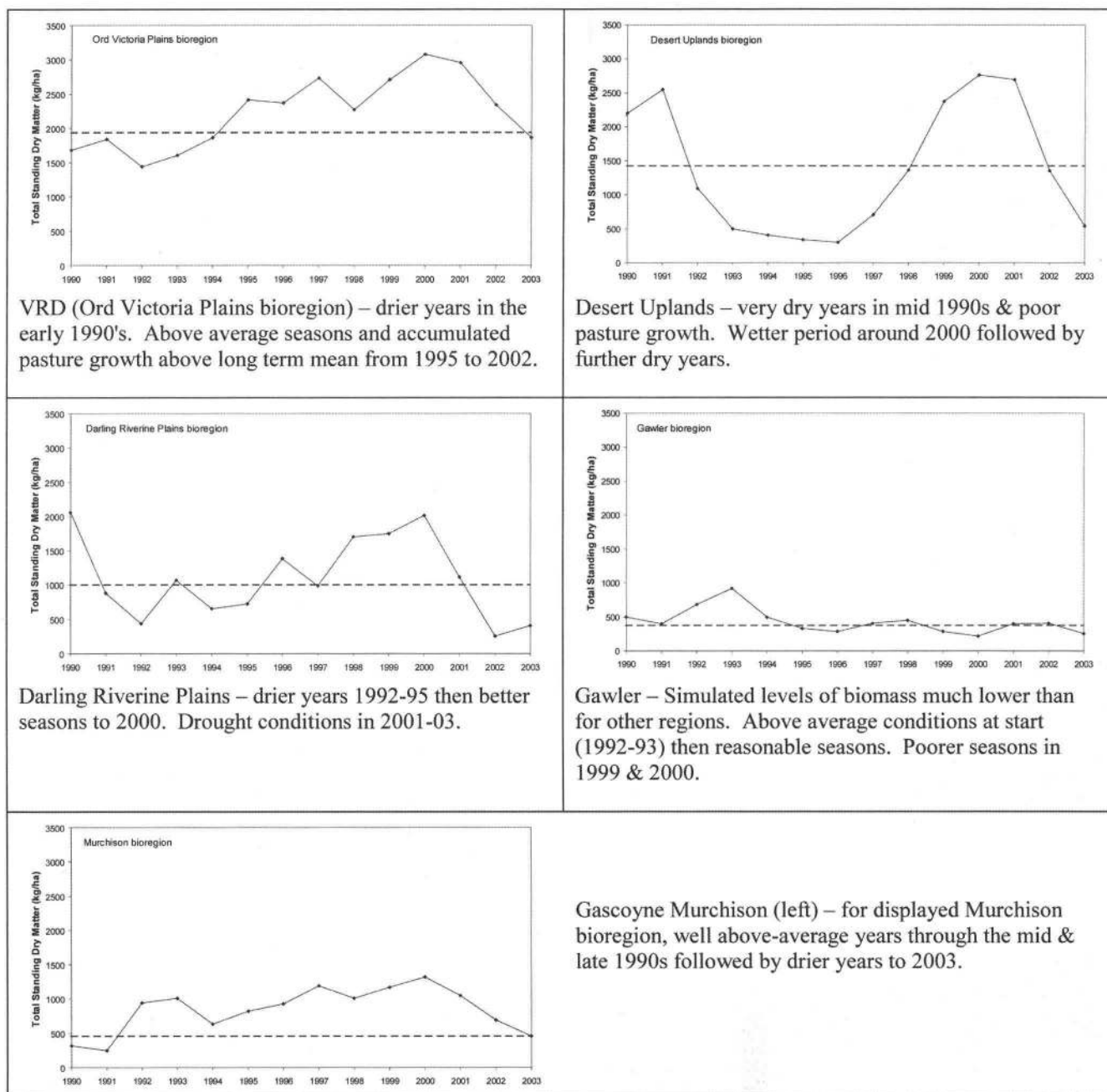


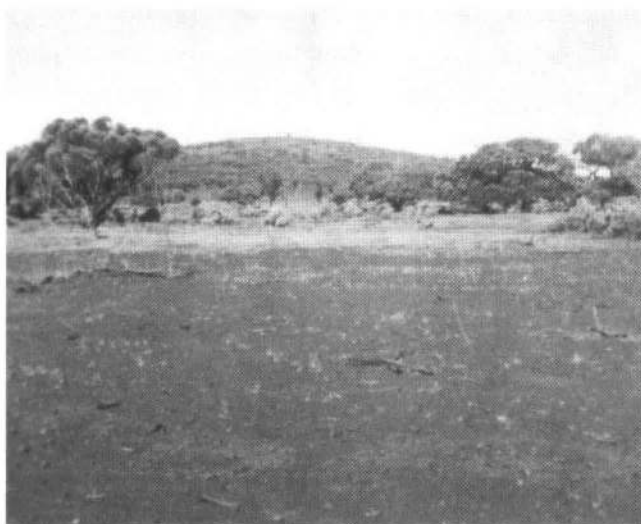
Figure 2. Aussie-GRASS simulated yearly total standing dry matter and the long term (1890-2003) mean for selected bioregions.

Change recorded for themes in the pilot regions

Critical Stock Forage Productivity

In summary, in southern Australia, sites dominated by palatable shrubs showed a modest improvement in condition considering the seasonal conditions, whilst perennial grasslands showed a variable outcome with no detectable overall improvement. In northern Australia, grassland condition generally followed seasonal conditions, although some sites in the Desert Uplands deteriorated despite some recent good seasons.

This photopoint in the Gawler bioregion demonstrates improving stock forage productivity in the chenopod shrublands of southern Australia (Photo 1a and b). The original photo (top) was taken in 1955 and the area was re-photographed in 1992 – where the foreground then had a moderate density of palatable saltbushes. Monitoring data show that palatable shrubs have increased in density at the majority of sites through our reporting period (1992-2002). (Photos: Brendan Lay, SA DWLBC.)



(a) Photopoint in 1955



(b) Same site in 1992

Photo 1. Photopoint in the Gawler bioregion

Native Plant (and Animal) Species

In southern Australia, palatable shrublands increased modestly in their density of all perennial species, with signs of species diversity being stable or losing ground in perennial grasslands.

In northern Australia, native grassland species were maintained in a series of good seasons, but there were signs of increasing exotics, mainly by sown buffel grass (*Cenchrus ciliaris*), in the Desert Uplands and a significant thickening of woody species in the VRD.

Adjacent to the Desert Uplands in the Emerald district, the only location with a repeat wildlife survey (mid 1970s and 2003), there was a major reduction in waterbird numbers (attributed to drier seasons), significant increases of grassland birds and decreases of woodland birds (related to tree clearing), and a major increase in the cane toad.

In the Darling Riverine Plains there was a 115% increase in the cropping area (mainly for cereals) between 1992 (84,845 ha) and 2003 (183,461 ha). This is indirect evidence of change in native species.

Landscape Function

Formal landscape function assessment is only routinely conducted in the Gascoyne Murchison and Victoria River District. Inferences about landscape function over larger areas of the VRD are drawn from relationships between ground data and cover change monitored by remote sensing. In other regions, various indices of landscape function have been calculated from monitoring of the soil and vegetation.

The resource capture index derived from formal landscape function assessment declined at two-thirds of Gascoyne Murchison shrubland and grassland sites. This decline infers reduced landscape function. Of further concern, much of this decline occurred following above-average seasonal conditions. Landscape function appears to have improved widely in the VRD through the period while above-average rainfall was experienced. Less robust indices used elsewhere showed that landscape function generally improved in the Gawler bioregion (half the sites improved following average seasons and one-quarter improved after poorer seasons). Landscape function tracked seasonal conditions on the northern floodplains of the Darling Riverine Plains. There were signs of improvement in landscape function in the Desert Uplands in the late 1990s, a period of higher rainfall.

Upstream water diversions appear to be changing the flooding regime in the northern Darling Riverine Plains. This may have significant implications for future stability of landscape function at site and enterprise scale.

A pair of photos from the same site in the VRD (Photo 2a and b) shows how landscape function can improve. The foreground in 1973 (top) was largely bare losing much wet-season rainfall as runoff. Precious nutrients for plant growth were being lost as the topsoil was eroded by wind and water. The dense cover of perennial grasses present in 2002 (bottom) means that most rainfall now infiltrates the soil, overland flow is minimal and risk of wind erosion has ceased.



(a) VRD photopoint in 1973



(b) Same site in 2002

Photo 2. Photopoint in the VRD

Cover

The results for cover are more mixed, partly because of the different aspects of cover sampled across Australia's rangelands and partly because much of the shorter lived cover is heavily influenced by recent seasonal conditions, which were variable across the continent.

"Forest" cover (defined by the Australian Greenhouse Office as having the "potential to reach a minimum 20% canopy cover, 2 m in height and minimum area of 0.2 ha") changed very little in the Gawler and VRD regions (Figure 3). On the Darling Riverine Plains, forest cover increased during the reporting period (1991-2002) although we know from other remotely sensed data that there has been a net decrease since 1972. The most dynamic region was the Desert Uplands even though over the reporting period there was only a small decrease. Independent woody cover data from the Queensland Government's Statewide Landcover and Trees Study (SLATS) program shows a similar small decline of about 7%.

Cover of shrubs and low trees as measured at ground sites increased in both the Gascoyne Murchison and Gawler regions. More transient cover (annuals and litter) decreased in line with poorer seasons. Pasture cover, also relatively transient, similarly tracked seasonal conditions on the northern floodplains of the Darling Riverine Plains and the Desert Uplands. In the VRD, Landsat data were used to track changes in cover of perennial grasslands. For the pastorally valuable basalt plains, cover was higher and more stable between 1993 and 2003 compared with the previous decade.

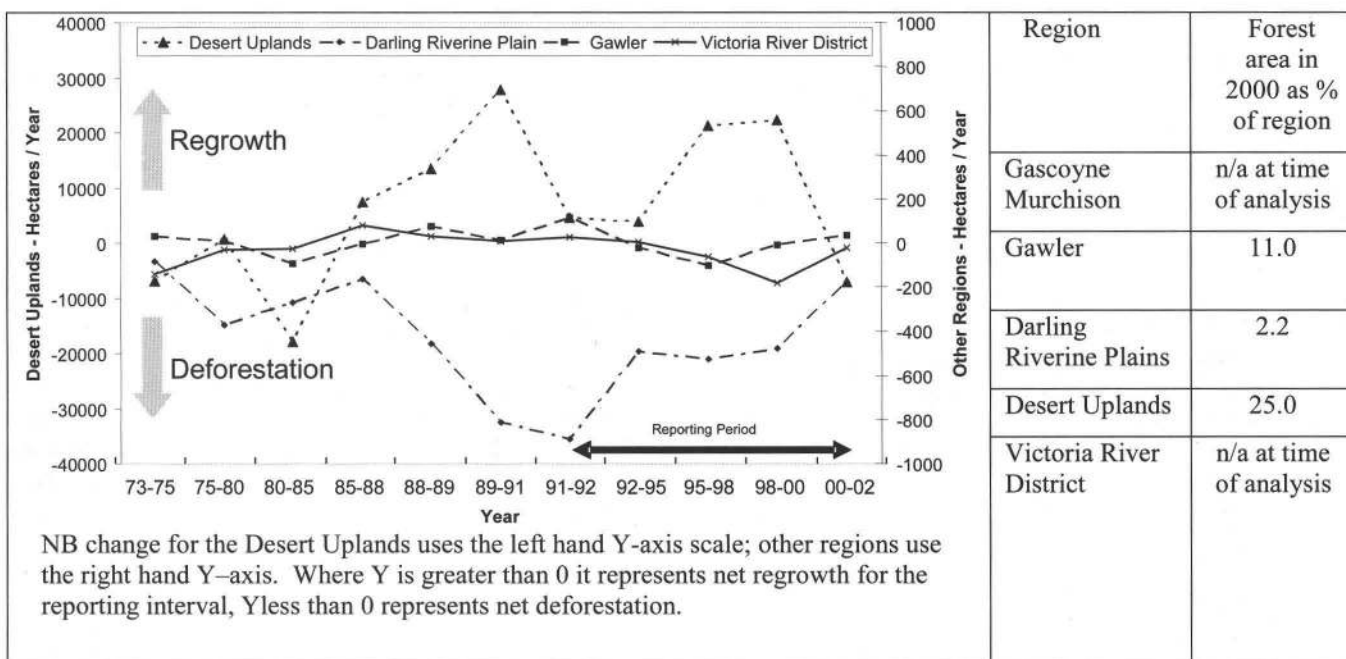


Figure 3. Average yearly net change in forest cover within each epoch for reporting regions.



(a) Desert Uplands site pre-clearing – 1996



(b) Same area after clearing – 2004

Photo 3. Photoprint in the Desert Uplands area showing the result of mechanical clearing

Mechanical clearing of this Desert Uplands area between 1996 and 2004 has removed the trees and greatly increased ground cover. Regrowth is evident in the most recent photo and managing such regrowth is critical to maintaining the productivity of cleared areas for pastoral production. (Photos: Paul Back, QDPI&F.)

Capacity

Analysis of national census data and surveys of agricultural production and value by the Australian Bureau of Statistics shows several consistent trends across regions. Notably, trends in the VRD differed from all others – possibly due to greater company ownership of properties and a higher indigenous population:

Result	Possible implications for change
Median age of “farmers” (pastoralists) is increasing in all regions except the VRD.	May reduce capacity to change, though older producers may have lower debt burdens.
Net emigration of young people in all regions apart from the VRD	May reduce capacity to change, innovate and to adopt technologies and practices that lead to improved resource management.
Age dependency ratio is increasing in all regions except the VRD. (This is the ratio of younger & older people to working-age population.)	Regional economies with moderate to low dependency are probably healthier, and hence more resilient to change.
Regional populations have declined in the Desert Uplands & Darling Riverine Plains. Population increase elsewhere (+17.6% in 1991-2001 in the VRD, with high % indigenous population).	Decreases in regions with restricted suite of agricultural commodities. Economic growth and capacity to change are therefore at risk.
Grazing is an important income source in all regions. Mining important in the Gascoyne Murchison & Gawler regions. Defence important in the VRD.	Broader economic base may facilitate change and buffer against fluctuating commodity prices (compared to regions with reduced marketing opportunities).

Challenges for ACRIS in Conducting Expanded Reporting

The most critical issues for reporting by ACRIS relate to availability of suitable data and institutional capacity in the different rangeland States and NT. There are considerable differences in the spatial extent of pastoral monitoring and frequency of re-assessment amongst jurisdictions. For example, Queensland has been unable to maintain a systematic, public-domain, ground-based, grazing land monitoring program in recent years. There has been limited re-assessment of sites in South Australia (their second systematic assessment is about to commence). Both NSW and WA members of the ACRIS Management Committee report that their respective monitoring programs are likely to experience difficulty in maintaining past levels of pastoral monitoring activity. Thus, current capacity to report over larger areas is likely to be limited and future reporting capacity is likely to decrease for most jurisdictions.

In addition to reducing capacity to sustain future monitoring activity, most jurisdictions report a shortage of people within agencies with the skills, experience and time

to undertake expanded reporting into ACRIS and other related reporting systems. There is a critical need to invest additional human-resource skills in the rangelands so that monitoring programs can be reinvigorated to allow more comprehensive reporting of change.

There are no suitable monitoring data as yet to adequately report change in biodiversity. The challenge for ACRIS in the absence of such data is to synthesise relevant available information into a coherent and accurate assessment of change of biodiversity components while also recognising their limitations. Additionally, we need to expand our reporting ability and confidence in the socio-economic domain.

We have demonstrated some skill in separating seasonal effects on vegetation change from those that may be due to management (mainly grazing). The value of our reporting should increase as we identify the extent to which grazing is the cause of change in natural resources. Allied with this, the value of generally scant, and often disparate, data will increase where we can confidently link emergent results across scales (point to region) to develop a more comprehensive account of change.

Where to From Here

ACRIS will now work with the National Land & Water Resources Audit towards reporting, by mid 2007, change in the rangelands under several broad themes. At the most recent meeting of the Management Committee (March 2005), these themes (and likely products) were broadly categorised as:

- Indicators of landscape or ecosystem change.

Reporting products to be based on monitoring data describing change in landscape function by formal landscape function analysis or appropriate alternative indices, vegetation cover, plant density and frequency, etc. In some jurisdictions, repeat regional resource condition assessments will complement site-based monitoring data.

- Indicators of sustainable management

Data from pastoral monitoring programs and other sources will be collated and analysed to report change in longer-term forage quality and availability. Contributions to a national photographic sequence will also illustrate change. Although more difficult to obtain comprehensive and accurate data, our hope is to report change in components of total grazing pressure. We also plan to report changes in the extent, frequency and timing of larger fires.

- Indicators of biodiversity change

As noted above, current lack of systematic monitoring data prevents comprehensive reporting of change in biodiversity. We will use landcover change, particularly from satellite data, and ground sources as available (e.g. species diversity, richness, vegetation condition) to report aspects of change. We will also pick up on the results of repeat biological surveys where they exist.

- Indicators of sustainable water management

Water resource issues are currently high on the national agenda and water management in the rangelands should be part of that agenda. We consider that ACRIS has a more specialised role in reporting change in distribution of waterpoints over time.

- Indicators of social & economic change

As for biodiversity, ACRIS currently has limited capacity to report change in the social and economic well-being of the rangelands. Our early products will include attributes of sustainable management derived from changes in land values, land use, tenure, etc.

Finally, indicators of climate variability will provide important context in interpreting data based around the preceding indicators. Based on experience gained from this pilot reporting activity, we expect that useful data and/or products will include regional rainfall histories, Aussie-GRASS simulations of pasture biomass and vegetation cover, and satellite-derived images of seasonal quality.

More Information?

Detail behind this summary is available in the national synthesis *Australian Collaborative Rangeland Information System, Reporting Change in the Rangelands* and accompanying regional reports (to be available as PDF files from the ACRIS web site or contact Gary – contact details at start of this article).

Members of the ACRIS Management Committee are:

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Jim Donaldson and Phil Pritchard, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Australian Government

Blair Wood, National Land and Water Resources Audit

Ian Watson, Department of Agriculture, Western Australian Government

Angas Hopkins, Department of Conservation and Land Management, Western Australian Government

Rachel MacCrae, Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Environment, Northern Territory Government

Richard Silcock, Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries, Queensland Government

Peter Young, Environmental Protection Agency, Queensland Government

Richard Hicks and Russell Grant, Department of Infrastructure, Planning & Natural Resources, New South Wales Government

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Margaret Friedel, CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems

Mark Stafford Smith, Desert Knowledge CRC

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DR JILL LANDSBERG

30th April 1953 - 24th May 2005



On the 24th May 2005, Jill Landsberg passed away in her beautiful rainforest home at Trinity Beach just north of Cairns, where she and her husband Dave Gillieson had moved to only 6 years ago. With the sounds of prolific local wildlife just outside her door, the dark green canopies off the back verandah and tropical rain cascading down their rainforest gully she was in a very different environment to the rangelands in which she spent nearly 10 years working on, and to where she had contributed so much over a relatively short period of time.

Jill commenced her ecological career after first undertaking studies in Queensland, in pharmacy and teaching. She began what was to characterise her brilliant scientific research with her groundbreaking PhD work on the causes of dieback of rural eucalypts in the Southern Tablelands (1982-1986). This research exemplified Jill's innovative style of thinking and meticulous approach to large, landscape scale complex problems that would be a familiar theme in her ongoing work. This, combined with

a formidable theoretical understanding, formed the basis for her strong focus on applied ecological issues and problems that would continue into her rangelands work. Prior to Jill's work the research focus towards eucalypt dieback had been more directed towards a single causal factor. In her typical style she carefully managed to tease out the significant individual factors but most importantly elucidate the interactions and processes that led to the devastating impact of widespread tree decline on agricultural landscapes on the tablelands and slopes.

After completing her PhD she continued her work on insect damage of eucalypts firstly on a postdoctoral fellowship (1987-8) in Canberra at CSIRO Forest Research (now Forestry and Forest Products) then as a Research Fellow at the Australian National University (1989-90). Jill then joined the Division of Wildlife and Ecology (now Sustainable Ecosystems) at Gungahlin, ACT, late in 1990 as a research scientist in the Rangelands Research group. This group was originally part of the National Rangelands Program, which CSIRO had just relocated from its regional lab in Deniliquin after decades of long and illustrious research by many of the doyens of rangelands research such as C.W.E. (Ted) Moore, Ray Perry, Jim Noble and David Tongway to name just a few.

Jill quickly established herself into her new role and research directions within CSIRO's National Rangelands Program, recognising that one of the critical issues for grazing management and its impact on the landscape was the total grazing pressure on the plant resource base. It was not only the livestock stocking rates which were the issue but the relative densities and distributions of kangaroos and feral goats, of which little was known. Often cited papers resulting from this work formed the basis for one of her other main research interests – the impacts of animal production on rangeland vegetation. As much of rangelands research was production focused at this time, the question of whether grazing throughout the semi-arid and arid zone rangelands had impacted deleteriously on its vegetation or fauna had so far not been comprehensively investigated. Asking these types of questions across the *Acacia* woodlands and the chenopod shrublands of Australia reflected the growing movement towards these broader issues and was part of the changes recognised so often in the rangelands journals during the late 1980's and 1990's. With Jill's plant ecology background, but also her strong collaborative nature, and the presence of Craig James just down the corridor, these issues evolved into a large team project investigating effects of grazing on rangelands biodiversity with a cast of old and new "rangelanders" such as Steve Morton, Des Nelson, Alex Drew and myself. The preliminary analysis provided the first real understanding on a continental scale of distribution of waterpoints in arid and semi-arid Australia and also gave a revealing review of the effects on biota. This research provided comprehensive data for critical management issues and provided the basis of a series of recommendations, including implementing a program of strategic closure of watering points in conservation reserves, that have been widely acknowledged and implemented across the rangelands. In conjunction with Craig James' further work on this theme of balancing conservation and production in the grazed

rangelands, the Biograzing project followed. This became another large collaborative project from which a number of important publications resulted.

Throughout these major research projects in the rangelands Jill's input was always widely sought and she was busy operating at a number of levels across a diverse range of committees, workshops, publications and research projects to name a few. She chaired the ACT Flora and Fauna Committee for a number of years and was widely known for her long term and tireless contributions as an office bearer to the Ecological Society of Australia. Amongst her other roles was Associate Editor for Austral Ecology and supervising a number of post-graduate students who were always very well supported in terms of intellectual input and guidance. Even the Rangelands Building garden to this day is testimonial to her landscape design talents with its blend of local native and rangelands plants such as mulga, myoporum and spiny saltbush to name a few. Who would have thought they could successfully grow and thrive in the southern tablelands environment and provide such a wonderful habitat for the local woodland birds and a lovely working environment 15 years later – Jill did!

When Jill's husband Dave Gillieson was offered a professorial position at James Cook University in 1999 they relocated to the far north. It seemed that once the scientific community realised Jill was based in Cairns she was again in great demand. In the last couple of years she held up to four positions simultaneously - as a Theme Leader for the Tropical Savanna's CRC, Adjunct Associate Professor at JCU, Principal Scientist at QDPI / QNPWS and the Ecological Society of Australia Regional Councillor. She always maintained her membership with the Australian Rangeland Society but the focus this time was more the Tropical Savannas. Her roles in these positions will be a very difficult one to fill.

Jill was only diagnosed with cancer a year ago and spent most of this time going through a series of treatments over which time the optimism gave way to peaceful acceptance. She was highly respected ecologist, but more importantly a magnificent person who enriched the lives of many. She related equally well to all people from all walks of life be they friends, pastoralists, land managers, scientists, neighbours, students or colleagues. She was awarded the Gold Medal of the Ecological Society of Australia on her hospital bed in recognition as an ecologist who had made a substantial contribution to the study of ecology in Australia. Certainly her contribution to ecology in the tablelands, rangelands and the tropics along with her innate ability to inspire, share and collaborate will always be remembered and admired.

Jacqui Stol
CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems
Canberra

[Ed. Jill was a very well-liked and highly respected ecologist and she will be missed by many members of the ARS. She had been a member of the Society since 1990.]

WESTERN AUSTRALIA'S COMMUNITY HAS THEIR SAY ON RANGELANDS NRM STRATEGY

Natalie Nelmes, Market Creations, Suite 8, Level 1, 201
Foreshore Drive, Geraldton WA 6530.
Email: natalie@marketcreations.com.au

People throughout the Western Australian rangelands have been given the opportunity to have their say on the future of the region's natural resources during a six-week public consultation period on the draft Rangelands Natural Resource Management Strategy.

The consultation period finished on 3 June. During the six-week period, 1000 hard copies of the strategy were distributed, with even more people accessing the information through the website www.rangelandswa.info and on CD. Some 27 workshops were also held throughout the Goldfields-Nullarbor, Gascoyne-Murchison, Pilbara and Kimberley to help the community and key stakeholders understand the detail in the strategy and to provide feedback.

The strategy provides a blueprint for future priorities and investment in NRM for the Rangelands, setting long-term targets and management actions for the land, water and coastal and marine area, as well as everything living within them.

Many formal submissions for amendments to the strategy have been received including those from pastoral, conservation, indigenous and agency groups. Rangelands Chair Bill Mitchell said this feedback would now be assessed by the strategy development team and incorporated into the strategy where appropriate.

"The Rangelands NRM Co-ordinating Group welcomes the feedback that people have taken the time to put their thoughts and energy into," he said. "We are all working to a common goal to protect our natural resources for future generations and there are many different ways in which we can get there. Our strategy and technical team will now assess the feedback received to see where appropriate amendments can be made in line with community aspirations.

"The RCG will continue to fine tune the document with input from the community as the strategy is a living document." The Rangelands NRM Co-ordinating Group is simultaneously compiling an investment plan to implement priorities in the regional strategy. Both documents will be submitted to the State and Australian Governments for accreditation early in the next financial year.

For more information, contact Rod Williams, Southern Rangelands Strategic NRM Regional Facilitator, NRM Centre, PO Box 522, Carnarvon, Tel: (08) 9956 3326, Fax: (08) 9941 8334, Email: rwilliams@agric.wa.gov.au.

[This article was published in the WA Dept of Agriculture Southern Rangelands Pastoral Memo Vol 11/2 June 2005]

REPORT FROM COUNCIL

Matt Bolam, Communications Officer ARS. Email: mattbolam@bigpond.com

News from the March and May Council Teleconferences

Council has had two meetings by teleconference since our last newsletter and members have been working on a number of issues.

Finances

Tim Ferraro has put a large amount of work into getting the ARS up to date on the financial front. This includes ensuring that the society is fully compliant with the various pieces of applicable legislation, meeting ATO and ASIC requirements, ensuring that the accounts are in auditable shape and budgeting for the next financial year. The amount of work required to ensure the ARS remains compliant just seems to increase each year.

Two key points from his report to council highlight important aspects of our society.

The Journal is (not surprisingly) the major expense of the ARS. It is also one of our key assets and a key reason for continued member involvement.

Membership remains stable but subscriptions do not cover the costs of running the society. The success of the conference continues to ensure the ongoing viability of the ARS.

ARS Conference 2006

The 2006 ARS Conference is planned for 4-7 September 2006 in Renmark, South Australia. The committee is made up of a diverse group of rangeland enthusiasts from SA and beyond, and the conference promises to be even better than the very successful Alice Springs conference last year.

Publications Review Committee and Electronic Publishing

NEWS FLASH!!

The first electronic issue of The Rangelands Journal is now available on the web at the CSIRO publishing site - www.publish.csiro.au. This is a great credit to the enormous efforts of the ARS publications committee. Make sure that you visit the site!

Council encourages every member use the "email a colleague" link to spread the word about the society and our high quality international journal.

The move to electronic publishing has not been without some teething problems however, in particular matching up databases, and this may cause some minor inconvenience for members. Work is ongoing to ensure that members are charged the appropriate rate and that you receive the publications that you have subscribed to. Please let us know if you experience any problems here.

Membership

Indications are that the number of financial members of the society seems to have stabilised since 2000. By the end of 2004, the total number of members stood at 438, which is a small increase on the same time in 2003 and again on 2002. However, it needs to be remembered that there were 638 members in 1989.

There were 76 new members in 2004, but obviously a similar number of members did not renew for various reasons. Council will be discussing these issues at their face-to-face meeting in June. More detail is available in the ARS Annual Report found at the back of this issue.

ARS Awards

Vanessa has been working to improve the awareness of the ARS Travel Grants and more generally identifying and investigating the networks of communication between all those with an interest in rangeland issues, e.g. local newsletters such as CLMA's Land Talk and QDPI&F's InfoResearch.

Communications

I have been looking at the way the ARS communicates with its members, others with connections to our fabulous rangelands and the public in general. I am keen to understand how we can increase the value of services provided to current members and also increase participation in the ARS from all with interests in the rangelands.

Council Business

It is quite a challenge running the ARS Council over the phone with members in all corners of Australia. To assist in this members have agreed to meet face-to-face on 16 and 17 June in Adelaide to progress key issues for the current and future operations of the ARS. A full report of this meeting will be available in the next newsletter.

NEW MEMBERS

Desiree Jackson
Hillview Park
Longreach QLD 4730

Rob and Kathryn Mitchell
Barnong Station
Yalgoo WA 6635

John H Collins
PO Box 1169
West Perth WA 6005

Blair Grace
74 Borella Circuit
Jingili NT 0810

Gresley Awakelin-King
6 Lang Street
Clifton Hill Vic 3068

INFORMATION SNIPPETS

Research Exploration Opportunities with the Vegetation Function Network

The ARC-NZ Research Network for Vegetation Function offer innovative opportunities to explore varied research questions and styles. Typical applicants might be recent honours graduates who wish to explore options and develop skills before undertaking a PhD. Opportunities up to 10 months are possible, or less by arrangement. There is no obligation to undertake a PhD subsequently.

The Vegetation Function Network (<http://www.bio.mq.edu.au/ecology/vegfunction/>) tackles research questions across the range from molecular genetics to climate modeling and earth history, and using skills including informatics and cost-benefit modeling. It brings together many leading research groups in Australia and overseas. A principal activity is week-long cross-disciplinary working groups.

Applicants are welcome from many backgrounds, including for example geoscience, maths, economics, politics, or molecular genetics as well as plant biology. Programs will be tailored to each individual, with a view to meeting new skills, ideas and people. Time will be spent with at least three different research groups in at least two cities, plus with the Network's working groups.

Applicants must be eligible for APA (strong Hons 1 or graded Master's, Australian or NZ permanent residency). Income support will be provided at APA-rate, \$18484 p.a. after tax. Express interest by 30 July 2005 to the Network Administrator, Robyn Delves, Dept of Biological Sciences, Macquarie University Sydney NSW 2109 Australia, rdelves@bio.mq.edu.au. Please include full academic record, citizenship or visa status, abstract of Hons or MSc thesis, and phone and email contacts for three academic referees, one of whom should be able to give detail about your Hons or MSc ranking. You are welcome to write also about how you might benefit from this exploration year. Shortlisted candidates will be interviewed, so there will be opportunity to discuss your particular interests.

Further information is available from the Network website.

National Young Farmers Forum 2005

The Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) is holding a Forum for young people who are committed to rural industry in Australia.

Delegates will have the chance to:

- identify the issues facing young rural people
- support the development of partnerships between young people and business and government, and
- develop initiatives that support the involvement of young people in rural industries

- meet with industry experts and other young people who are enthusiastic the future of primary production in Australia.

The Forum will be held in Canberra, 1 - 2 September 2005 and is open to people aged 18-35. Applicants must demonstrate their commitment to agriculture, fisheries, forestry, food or natural resource management industries through their ongoing involvement in a relevant sector for at least three years.

For more information and the application form visit the Young Australian Rural Network (YARN) website - www.yarn.gov.au.

It is now too late to make the application deadline (Wednesday 13 July 2005), however the Editor would be keen to receive feedback from any attendee.

2006 World Meat Congress

The 2006 World Meat Congress is to be held in Brisbane from the 26-29 April. It will have four major themes: the consumer, the community, supply and trade policy.

As the world's largest meat and livestock exporter, Australia provides an ideal backdrop for industry participants to discuss global trends, innovations and issues. The program will offer opportunities to take part in pre and post-congress industry activities for the meat processing, pork, beef and sheepmeat sectors, around Queensland's Gold Coast, Darling Downs and Rockhampton regions.

Keep up to date with all the latest details via the Congress website at www.2006worldmeatcongress.com.au.

Audit of pest animal control in Australia

Red foxes, wild dogs, feral cats, feral rabbits, feral pigs, and feral goats separately and in various combinations are believed to be responsible for the extinction or decline of a wide range of native species and for adverse changes in ecological communities in Australia.

The Department of Environment and Heritage report, *Review of existing Red Fox, Wild Dog, Feral Cat, Feral Rabbit, Feral Pig, and Feral Goat control in Australia. I. Audit* details an audit of existing pest animal control activities in Australia.

The review is available from the Department of Environment website at: <http://www.deh.gov.au/biodiversity/invasive/publications/feral-audit/index.html>



The Australian Rangeland Society

ABN 43 008 784 414

2005 ANNUAL REPORT TO MEMBERS

[Ed. This report is an edited copy of Directors Report which was tabled at the 2005 Annual General Meeting of the Society, held on 18 May 2005 in Midland, WA]

Your directors present their report on The Australian Rangeland Society – hereafter “the Society” - for the year ended 31st December 2004.

The names of directors in office at any time during or since the end of the year are:

DG Wilcox AM (Consultant, Natural Resources Management, Age 70)

TJ Ferraro (General Manager, Central West Catchment Management Authority, Age 36)

AME Van Vreeswyk (General Manager, Department for Planning and Infrastructure, Age 41)

The profit of the Society for the year amounted to \$40,357

The Society publishes and circulates three newsletters and two journals to the members annually, runs a biennial conference, provides grants to assist members with travel and research and promotes the advancement of the science and art of using Australia's rangeland resources for all purposes commensurate with their continued sustainability and productivity. There were no significant changes in the nature of these activities.

Review of operations

2004 was a year of consolidation and review for the Society. The main activities for the financial year were:

- Conducting the biennial conference of the Society at Alice Springs, Northern Territory;
- Initiating a review of the Society's publications;
- Completing an arrangement with CSIRO Publishing to produce The Rangeland Journal using electronic publishing methods;
- Council deciding on a number of operational policy decisions with the aim of improving accountability and financial management;
- Beginning the planning for the next conference of the Society at Renmark, South Australia in 2006; and

- Publication and distribution of three issues of the Range Management Newsletter and two issues of The Rangeland Journal.

Directors' Report

Council has met five times during the 2004 year and also held the Annual General Meeting and a General Meeting of the Society with a quorum present on all occasions. Four meetings of Council were via teleconference with some Council members present and others on the phone. A member in person meeting of Council was held in Alice Springs In July 2004

As part of our ongoing commitment to revitalising the Society, the Council has undertaken some new initiatives and continued to support existing ones.

The following people were members of the ARS Council during 2004:

David Wilcox AM	President
David Lord	Vice President
Sandra van Vreeswyk	Secretary
Tim Ferraro	Finance & Audit Officer/ Company Secretary
Merri Tohill	Immediate Past President
Vanessa Bailey	Membership Officer
Matt Bolam	Communications Officer
Lachlan Peglar	Communications Officer*
Neil McLeod	Membership Officer *
Robyn Cowley	Membership Services Officer*

* denotes retired during 2004

The position of Membership Services Officer remains to be filled. The vacancy has been listed in the notice to members calling for nominations for the election at the 2005 AGM of the Society.

The Society continues to rely heavily on a number of volunteers who fulfil a number of vital roles. These are:

Ken Hodgkinson	Chair, Publications Committee
R D B Whalley	Journal Editor
Noelene Duckett	Newsletter Editor
Ian Watson	Subscriptions Manager
Malcolm Howes	Printing Manager
Leigh Hunt	Chair, Publications Committee*

* denotes retired during 2004

Publications

The publishing and circulation of professional and highly regarded publications in the form of three newsletters and two journals per year to members continued under the guidance of the Publications Committee and their respective Editors and Associate Editors.

Council has entered into an agreement with CSIRO Publishing to have *The Rangeland Journal* published using electronic means. The Journal will continue to be made available in hard copy and electronic form to members in categories other than Libraries and kindred institutions. The latter two will receive the Journal in electronic form only. The *Range Management Newsletter* will continue to be published in hard copy form only.

The initial arrangement beginning in January 2005 with CSIRO Publishing will last for three years. The agreement will be then be reviewed. The advantages which Council see as attendant upon the electronic form include:

- The ability to appeal to a much larger authorship, greater penetration of the Journal into scientific institutions worldwide;
- An opportunity to increase the circulation of the Journal; and
- An enhanced attraction of the Journal to authors because of its increased access for conventional citation programs and software.

The Council has augmented the range of papers that would be considered for publication in *The Rangeland Journal*. Papers on the economic and social aspects of rangeland use world wide, on the administration of rangelands, on tenure, on conservation in its widest sense and on the use of rangelands by indigenous peoples will now be accepted by the Editors.

During the year it was possible to discern a greater range of papers published in the Journal. A paper on Aboriginal archaeology and another on the need to develop policies which enable the sharing of the costs of rangeland rehabilitation between more sectors of society are examples of the widening of the debate on rangelands in Australia. It was also pleasing to see papers by overseas authors in rangeland allocation in Iran.

Although the cost of electronic publication is greater than that by conventional means Council was of the opinion that this change was necessary of the Society was to persist as a vital body capable of providing disinterested advice and opinion for policy makers and the community generally on rangelands and their use.

Council has also established a Review Committee chaired by Dr. Dionne Walsh with Dr. Ron Hacker, Dr Jocelyn Davies, Dr. John Childs and Dr. John Taylor as members. The Review Group is charged with:

- Reviewing the focus, scope, format and target audience of *The Rangeland Journal* with special reference to increasing Society membership and submissions of manuscripts, both nationally and overseas;
- Reviewing the focus, scope, format and target audience of the *Range Management Newsletter* with special reference to increasing Society membership and submissions of news and articles, both nationally and overseas;
- Evaluating the desirability of the Society initiating and managing the production of books and other published material for tertiary level students and interest groups amongst members, and
- Evaluating the focus, scope and format of the ARS website with special reference to increasing Society membership.

The Review committee is expected to complete its task by December 2005.

Biennial Conference

The 13th Biennial conference of the Society was held in Alice Springs in July 2004. The program differed markedly from earlier meetings in that it focused upon individual responsibilities for achieving proper land use in a wide understanding of the term. The program also highlighted the change over the 30 years of the existence of the Society which has occurred in the understanding of the rights and obligations of occupiers in the use land and the emergence of true stewardship as a responsibility of occupancy

Over 400 delegates from a wide range of disciplines attended the meeting. It was the largest conference held by the Society and it benefited enormously from the greater range of papers delivered or presented in poster form. Several papers by Indigenous people were very well received and welcomed for their innovative ways of considering rangeland use. Many of those attending the meeting were not members of the Society. It is felt that the Conference provided a forum for rangeland workers in the economic and social fields where they could with some ease meet others with similar interests.

Membership

Membership of the Society increased by a small amount in 2004, rising to 438. Membership numbers have been declining since a peak of 638 in 1989 but have remained more or less stable from 2002 to 2004. A third year of similar membership numbers tends to indicate that the current number of members is sustainable for the time being.

The number of new members for 2004 was 76, but there were a number of resignations at the same time. It is thought that the increase in membership resulted from exposure of the Society at the Conference and from the President's letter inviting participants to join. The large number of new members allowed the Society to maintain overall total member numbers.

Just on three-quarters of the membership receive both *The Rangeland Journal* and the *Range Management Newsletter*. Membership of the Society will be lower next year as the 'Library' subscribers are removed from our list of members. At present the "Library" subscribers number about 60.

Membership numbers remain sufficient to maintain the viability of the Society for the time being, but not high enough to allow any major new initiatives. It is hoped that electronic publishing will provide an increase in membership and financial viability of the Society. Council also hopes that the increased interest in the Society, as evidenced by the attendance at the Alice Springs conference, will result in an increase in membership.

The agreement for electronic publishing with CSIRO Publishing has shown that the ARS database and CSIRO's database need to be aligned as the strictly "Library" subscribers have been deleted from the main membership and now being managed by the publishing firm. Some early "teething issues" associated with the new delivery arrangements have now been resolved.

The clear signals from the trends with membership numbers and categories are:

- The need to determine how to keep members engaged once they have joined;
- To review focus areas within the Society and expand the topics it considers to encompass broader influences on Rangelands (eg indigenous knowledge, social sciences); and
- Particularly to establish the Society as having a world view of rangelands and not one limited to Australia.

The Council is working on responses to the above issues.

Financial

The financial affairs of the Society remain in a strong footing with a profit from ordinary activities of \$40,357

(2003: \$35,605) and total equity/retained profits of \$188,435 (2003: \$148,077).

While membership numbers increased in the financial year, differing collection times mean that membership fees decreased to \$30,867 (2003: \$34,811). Professionally run biennial conferences continue to have a positive impact on the Society's financial position with \$169,741 in conference income generated in the financial year. Membership and conference income continues to adequately cover the ongoing liabilities of the Society.

Interest income increased to \$6,178 (2003: \$3,926) as a result of better investment options. The Society maintained a conservative investment profile with all surplus funds invested in interest bearing deposits. Honoraria continued to be paid in accordance with Council and Society policy.

The Society continued to work on improvements to programs and protocols to allow it to complete its commitments to standard reporting of its financial position as required under law. A number of bank accounts were closed in the reporting period and outstanding GST obligations for former State Branches were completed. A review of the merchant facilities (credit card/EFTPOS) commenced with a view to reducing the amount expended in fees.

Council is very appreciative of the excellent work done by the Treasurer in handling the finances of the Society and for developing the processes and protocols which govern the management of the finances of the Society and the Council's responsibilities to members and to official bodies which supervise our activities.

Communications

The Communications Officer prepared a revised draft of the ARS communication strategy that seeks to identify key stakeholders and how the Society can best communicate with them. The strategy also identifies what messages we wish to distribute to stakeholders and importantly what the society needs to hear from them. The Strategy will be available on the website once completed.

The ARS Communication Strategy recognises the need for the society to work more effectively to engage with a broader group of organisations and individuals connected to the rangelands, including those working in social, cultural and conservation sectors.

As a part of updating the strategy, the Council has been identifying and collating the existing networks active in the rangelands and NRM areas including paper based and electronic newsletters, email distribution lists and suitable websites to link with our website.

Work on updating the website has recommenced with the travel grant information and application package available on the site.

Website activity for the June 2004 to December 2004 period showed that over 8700 people visited the ARS

website. Interest in the Society peaked around the Conference period, with a build up of visits in June 2004 and highest numbers visiting the website for July 2004 and August 2004.

The travel grant information has recently been publicized in the Rangelands Australia newsletter.

Web Site

As the public window into the Society, the website continues to be a key resource for the Society. It attracted 12 000 hits during the period June 2004 to April 2005 with peaks of interest during the build up to the conference and in subsequent months.

The website underwent continual development throughout 2004. A link has been established with CSIRO Publishing which will enable the ARS e-publishing site to be accessed very easily, thus enlarging the catchment size of potential users of it.

The Society has reason to be very grateful to Mr. Jason Batory who has acted as Web Master for the web site and who has been able to introduce changes and alterations to the site to the complete satisfaction of the Council. Mr. Batory has done this in a voluntary capacity.

Other matters

During the year Council formally adopted a Privacy Statement which was published in the *Range Management Newsletter*.

Council also determined the honoraria paid for various services and continued to consider how membership can be increased,

A Travel Grant was made available to Mr Peter Brunner of Griffith University to enable him to continue his studies on the relationship between wind erosion, outer floodplains and dry land river systems along the Diamantina River in Central Australia.

No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the year which significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the Society, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the Society in future financial years.

DETAILED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2004

	Notes	2004 \$	2003 \$
CLASSIFICATION OF EXPENSES BY NATURE			
Revenues from ordinary activities	2	207,852	131,521
Journal Costs		(19,823)	(11,071)
Conference Costs		(125,541)	(56,479)
Newsletter Costs		(4,793)	(4,337)
Other expenses		(17,338)	(24,029)
Profit from ordinary activities		40,357	35,605

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2004

	Notes	2004 \$	2003 \$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash Assets	4	206,683	149,296
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Payables	5	18,248	1,219
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		18,248	1,219
NET ASSETS		188,435	148,077
EQUITY			
Retained profits	6	188,435	148,077

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2004

	Notes	2004 \$	2003 \$
CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Receipts from members and others		206,786	127,596
Interest received		6,177	3,926
Payments to suppliers		(155,576)	(102,023)
Net Cash generated from operating activities	7(b)	57,387	29,499
Net Increase in Cash held		57,387	29,499
Cash at Beginning of the year		149,296	119,797
Cash at End of the year	7(a)	206,683	149,296

The following accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements.

1. Statement of Accounting Policies

This special purpose financial report has been prepared for distribution to members for the purpose of fulfilling the director's financial reporting requirements. The financial statements comply with those Accounting Standards and UIG Consensus Views (if any) deemed necessary by the director in the circumstances to meet the objectives of the special report. The Society is not a reporting entity.

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historical costs and does not take into account changing money values or, except where stated, current valuations of non-current assets. Cost is based on the fair values of the consideration given in exchange for assets.

The following is a summary of the material accounting policies adopted by the Society in the preparation of the financial report. The accounting policies have been consistently applied, unless otherwise stated.

a) Income Tax

The Society is exempt from income tax.

b) Cash

For the purposes of the statement of cash flows, cash includes cash on hand and at call deposits with banks or financial institutions, investments in money market instruments maturing within less than two months and net of bank overdrafts.

c) Revenue

Membership fee is recognised when it is receivable. All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

d) Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Tax Office. In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of the acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the statement financial positions are shown inclusive of GST.

e) Members' Guarantee

The Society is limited by guarantee. If the Society is wound up, the Articles and Memorandum of Association states that each member including those members ceasing membership within one year of that date is required to contribute a maximum of \$10 each towards the meeting any outstanding obligations of the society. As at 31st December 2004 the number of members was 438 (2003: 397)

	2004 \$	2003 \$
1. Revenue		
Operating activities		
Conferences	169,741	90,456
Journals	1,066	2,318
Membership fee	30,867	34,811
Interest from banks	6,178	3,926
Others	-	10
	<u>207,852</u>	<u>131,521</u>
2. Profit from ordinary activities		
Profit from ordinary activities before income tax expense has been determined after:		
(a) Expenses:		
Bank Charges	<u>3,068</u>	<u>2,081</u>
3. Cash Assets		
Main Cheque	194,216	131,895
Alice Springs	11,755	11,329
ARS WA	-	558
Journal Account	712	5,514
Cash at bank	<u>206,683</u>	<u>149,296</u>
4. Payables		
Sundry creditors	10,016	465
GST Payable	<u>8,232</u>	<u>754</u>
	<u>18,248</u>	<u>1,219</u>

	2004 \$	2003 \$
5. Retained profits		
Retained profit at the start of the financial year	148,077	112,472
Net Profit attributable to members of the Society	40,358	35,605
Retained profits at the end of the financial year	188,435	148,077

6. Cash Flow information

(a) Reconciliation of Cash

Cash at the end of the financial year as shown in the statements of cash flows is reconciled to the related items in the statement of financial position as follows:

Cash at Bank and on Hand	206,683	149,296
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(b) Reconciliation of cash flow from operations with profit from ordinary activities after income tax

Profit from ordinary activities	40,357	35,605
Changes in assets and liabilities		
Increase/(decrease) in payables	17,030	(6,106)
Cash flows generated from operations	57,387	29,499

7. Related Party Transactions

During the year, honoraria amounting to \$7,476 (2003: \$2,155) were paid to N Duckett, M Howes and I Watson. There was a CPI increase in the honoraria approved by the Council. The CPI increase has been a Society policy. Council has reviewed this policy and will recommend to the next AGM that increases be considered by Council on a case by case basis.

8. Society Details

The registered office of the Society is:
THE AUSTRALIAN RANGELAND SOCIETY
2 Dulhunty Avenue
DUBBO NSW 2830

The principal place of business is:
THE AUSTRALIAN RANGELAND SOCIETY
2 Dulhunty Avenue
DUBBO NSW 2830

AUSTRALIAN RANGELAND SOCIETY AWARDS

The Society has two awards to assist members with either:

- studies related to the rangelands; or
- travel expenses associated with attending a conference (or some other activity).

Applications for each award will be considered on a yearly basis. Any member of the Society interested in either award is invited to apply.

Australian Rangeland Society Travel Grant

This grant is intended to assist eligible persons to attend a meeting, conference or congress related to the rangelands; or to assist eligible persons with travel or transport costs to investigate a topic connected with range management or to implement a program of rangeland investigation not already being undertaken. The grant is available for overseas travel and/or travel within Australia. It is not intended for subsistence expenses.

Australian Rangeland Society Scholarship

This scholarship has the purpose of assisting eligible members with formal study of a subject or course related to the rangelands and which will further the aims of the Australian Rangeland Society. The scholarship is available for study assistance either overseas or within Australia. It is not intended to defray travel expenses.

How to Apply

Members interested in either grant should submit a written outline of their proposed activity. Applications should clearly address how the intended activity (ie. travel or study) meets the aims of the Society. Applications should be brief (less than 1000 words) and should be submitted to Council before **30th November 2005**. Application forms and guidelines can be downloaded from the ARS website at <http://www.austrangesoc.com.au>. Those requiring further information should contact the ARS Secretary, Sandra Van Vreeswyk, Phone (08) 9347 5120 or sandra.vanvreeswyk@dpi.wa.gov.au.

Conditions

Applications for the Travel Grant should include details of the costs and describe how the grant is to be spent. Details of any other sources of funding should be given. Those applying for the Scholarship should include details of the program of study or course being undertaken and the institution under whose auspices it will be conducted. Information on how the scholarship money will be spent is required, as are details on any other sources of funding.

Applications for either award should include the names of at least two referees.

Finally, on completing the travel or study, recipients are required to fully acquit their grant or scholarship. They

are also expected to write an article on their activities or experiences for the *Range Management Newsletter*.

Eligibility

No formal qualifications are required for either award. There are no age restrictions and all members of the society are eligible to apply. Applications are encouraged from persons who do not have organisational support.

Travel or study assistance can be made available to a non-member where Council considers that the application meets the aims of the Society, and is of sufficient merit.

Overseas Travel and Study

There is a restriction on both awards for overseas travel or study assistance in that the applicants must have been members of the society for at least 12 months. The grants can be for Australian members travelling overseas or for overseas members to study within Australia.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM



The Australian Rangeland Society

TAX INVOICE / RECEIPT ABN 43 008 784 414

Please complete and return to the Subscription Manager, Ian Watson, PO Box 483, NORTHAM WA 6401
Ph (618) or (08) 9690 2179: Fax (618) or (08) 9622 1902: iwatson@agric.wa.gov.au

I, [name]

of [address]

Postcode..... Email address

Phone Fax

apply for membership of the Australian Rangeland Society and agree to be bound by the regulations of the Society as stated in the Articles of Association and Memorandum.

☐ Enclosed is a cheque for \$AU..... for full/part* membership for an individual/student/institution* for the calendar year 2005.

(* delete as appropriate)

☐ Charge my Mastercard VISA Bankcard AU\$.....for full/part* membership for an individual/student/institution* for the calendar year 2005

Card No.: _____ Expiry Date:

Signature:..... Date: Cardholders Name:.....

If you were introduced to the Society by an existing member please include their name here

Please list details of your institution & student number if you are applying for student rates

Membership Rates; GST inclusive

Australia

Overseas Airmail

Individual or Family -

Full (Journal + Newsletter)/Student

\$80.00/\$60.00

\$100.00/\$80.00

Part (Newsletter only)/Student

\$45.00/\$30.00

\$55.00/\$35.00

Institution or Company -

Full (Journal + Newsletter)

\$110.00

\$135.00

Part (Newsletter only)

\$60.00

\$70.00

- All rates are quoted in AUSTRALIAN currency and must be paid in AUSTRALIAN currency.
- Membership is for the calendar year 1st January to 31st December. Subscriptions paid after 1st October will be deemed as payment for the following year.

Australian Rangeland Society Privacy Statement. Consistent with national privacy legislation, the Australian Rangeland Society (ARS) will only use members' personal contact information for keeping its records up to date, and enabling member access to ARS products and services e.g. meetings, events, newsletters, journals and conferences. ARS will not use members' information as supplied to ARS for any other purpose and it will not disclose the information to any other party without the member's consent. This will be achieved through email communication or any other means as appropriate.