



The Australian Rangeland Society

RANGE MANAGEMENT NEWSLETTER

An official publication of The Australian Rangeland Society

ISSN 0812-4930

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Bastin, G. and Allan, G. (2012). After the smoke has cleared: 2011 fire in Central Australia. In: Range Management Newsletter (Ed. N Duckett). 12/2:3-6. (Australian Rangeland Society: Australia).

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Range Management Newsletter

Official newsletter of the Australian Rangeland Society

Editor - Dr T. Fatchen, Roseworthy Agricultural

College, Roseworthy, S.A. 5371

No. 79/2, July, 1979.

The late appearance of this issue is a result of my changed commitments at Roseworthy following the tragic death of Dr Bob Stefanson, Head of the Department of Natural Resources at the College. Bob, with his elder son Alain, died in a boating accident while on a student field trip. He had made a significant contribution to the A.R.S. both as a member of the S.A. Branch executive and by his part in planning the National Conference, particularly in the editing and production of the Conference papers. His death is a loss to the Society as both an active member and as an environmental educator.

The next issue will appear in September as normal. Deadline for contributions: 31 August 1979.

TIM FATCHEN
Editor.

1979 BIENNIAL CONFERENCE

Despite last-minute venue changes, economic climate etc., 72 people attended the Conference in Adelaide. While this was not as many as had been hoped for, it was nonetheless a reasonable turnout, with representatives from all sections. The pre- and post-conference tours through parts of the S.A. Rangelands were well attended. As a point of historical interest, the visit to the T.G.B. Osborn reserve (Koonamore Vegetation Reserve) was the first official and organized visit by a group containing pastoralists in the reserve's 54-year history!

Conference papers are still available at \$3 copy + postage from the Secretary:

Mr M.C. Willcocks,
c/- Dept. of Agriculture,
G.P.O. Box 1671,
ADELAIDE, S.A. 5001

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT FOR THE PASTORALIST

This symposium, held at Broken Hill and organised by the Broken Hill Branch of the A.R.S. (see last newsletter), was an outstanding success, with an attendance of 142 of whom 90% were pastoralists. As well, representatives of banks, pastoral firms and the odd (?) scientist and administrator came. Even South Australians conquered their fear of border-hopping. Fifteen new members signed on - a further measure of success!

A major factor in the success of the meeting was the presentation by a pastoralist (W.B. Smith) of a local pastoralist's case history.

The proceedings will be printed and should be available in 2-3 months: further information in the next newsletter.

POPLAR BOX SYMPOSIUM IN COBAR

From: Peter Walker, Soil Conservation Service, Cobar.

A three-day symposium on Poplar Box Woodlands was held in Cobar, N.S.W. from 27th to 29th March, 1979.

Poplar box (Eucalyptus populnea), or bimble box as it is known in N.S.W. grows a broad band extending from Griffith in southern N.S.W. to the central Queensland coast in the vicinity of Rockhampton, within the range 200 to over 1000mm average annual rainfall, from Quilpie and White Cliffs in the west, to Kingaroy and Quirindi in the east.

Organized by CSIRO Woodland Ecology Unit, the symposium brought together 50 people from all parts of the woodlands, who work in research, extension services, land administration and in the grazing and farming industries.

The symposium was designed to collate all known information on the woodlands and to point out areas where further work is required.

The Papers were presented over 3 days and were as follows:

Resource Definition

1. Social and economic structure of the poplar box woodlands and their importance to Australia.
2. Biogeography of poplar box.
3. Floristic associations of the poplar box woodlands.
4. Soils of poplar box communities in Eastern Australia.
5. Biology of the shrubs in poplar box woodlands.
6. Soil moisture and plant response.

Resource Use/Management

1. Current land uses in poplar box woodlands.
2. Methods of clearing and woody weed control.
3. Effects of clearing and grazing on a poplar box woodland.
4. Pasture establishment.
5. Use of fire as a management tool in poplar box woodlands.
6. Whole system response to disturbance.

Plenary - Effects of Land Use

1. Effects of European settlement and pastoral use on the biological system.
2. Effects of various land uses on the physical sub-system.
3. Land use options - management and economics.

Plenary - Research Needs

1. Research needs of the extension service.
2. Perceived research needs of the primary producer in poplar box country.
3. The land manager's perception of research and extension.

The proceedings will be published late this year in a special issue of the Rangeland Journal.

A symposium dinner was held at the Great Western Hotel.

All who attended found it an informative and enjoyable symposium.

MINUTES OF THE NINETEENTH COUNCIL MEETING OF
THE AUSTRALIAN RANGE SOCIETY,
HELD AT 9:50 P.M. ON
THURSDAY, 17TH MAY, 1979, AT PT. AUGUSTA

PRESENT: Dr. W.H. Burrows, Past President,
 Mr. J. Vickery, President,
 Mr. M. Willcocks, Secretary,
 Dr. V. Squires, Vice President,
 Dr. T. Fatchen (observer)

APOLOGIES: Mr. K. Casperson

PREVIOUS MINUTES: Were read and then signed as a true and correct record.
 Burrows/Squires.

BUSINESS ARISING:

1. Note in correspondence on dealing with unfinancial members. A copy will be placed on the inside front cover of the council meetings book (see 17th Council meeting).
2. K. Casperson to organise an auditor for the end of December for the publications account. Then to notify publications secretary and ask for a more detailed publications account, including sale of reprints. (Last version of publications account could have been more detailed.) Howes now selling back issues of the Journal at \$7-00 each.
3. Any branch that applies for the \$2-00 subsidy can only claim that amount per head for financial members only. A note then has to be sent to the auditor.
4. Emblem - drafting of proposals was paid for according to the motion previously passed.
5. Poplar-box printing:
 - (i) if the cost of printing exceeds budget then the A.W.C. may support the publication and cover the excess;
 - (ii) the Army is supporting the printing by paying for the coloured maps to the tune of \$3 000.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. of 2/2/79 asking for a concessional rate because of retirement. Discussed.

Because each back journal now costs \$7-00 and there are two journals/year and because annual subscriptions are only \$14-00/year, decided that a concession of 75% of the ordinary rate could only be claimed after 10 years' continuous subscriptions. Students can join for \$5-00 which includes the Newsletter but not the journal. Squires/Vickery

The subscription rate of \$14 or \$16, depending on when paid, can be altered at the end of the year or left as is, but a decision must be made.

Overseas subscriptions must be more clearly defined to cover extra expenses (see later).

2. Next Conference

Ray Perry, on behalf of CSIRO LRM, has offered to organise the next ARS as a joint venture with the Australian Arid Zone Research Conference in 1981 - see correspondence. He requires a recommendation by August.

Council is delighted with the suggestion and accepts the proposal.

Burrows/Squires

Letter to R. Perry accepting this proposal to be drafted. Squires suggested that one topic worth consideration be "Plant Introduction and Reseeding".

An entry needs to be made in the next Newsletter - that the Society is considering themes for the next meeting, possibly in conjunction with the Australian Arid Zone Conference in 1981; suggestions are invited.

No outwards correspondence since last meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

None since one was presented at the recent AGM.

Past Treasurer, G. Lee, commended for his efforts and useful guidelines for incoming Treasurers (photocopied and placed in minutes).

Newsletter editor needs to mention subscriptions in next issue because of subscriptions in arrears - Treasurer to send out reminders to members in that position.

Need to advise Howes of changes of address of members and of new members.

New members need to be approved by Council and a standard reply to new members exists (see correspondence).

Overseas subscriptions - need to note in next Newsletter that subscriptions from overseas will rise to \$US20 to take account of mailing costs and exchange rates.

Squires/Vickery

Need to ring D. Wilcox to see if a copy of the audited budget is required in Perth by the Department administering the Companies' Act.

Publications account has been given \$1 500 for forthcoming journals (see previous Council meeting).

Re 2nd Biennial Conference - Council moved that an extra \$100 contingency fund be approved to cover extra costs.

Vickery/Squires

An account of the Conference needs to be sent to the auditor.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

1. The motion that "the Newsletter editor be rotated yearly" was rescinded.

Burrows/Squires

2. Has been agreed that the librarian at Denniliquinn will store back-minutes and correspondence - needs to be sifted.
3. Whether ARS be a repository for permanent photo points or some other group (M. Westoby). Pointed out that there are several collections of working groups and they are very much valued local property. Might be more valid to set up a register of collections with a brief description of each, where housed and person in charge. Refer to editorial board. M. Westoby to start off and approach editor.

NEXT MEETING:

Suggested for July at Adelaide.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 11.33 p.m.

THE AUSTRALIAN RANGELAND SOCIETY

MINUTES OF THE 4TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE AUSTRALIAN
RANGELAND SOCIETY, HELD AT LANDS DEPARTMENT TRAINING CENTRE
IN ADELAIDE ON WEDNESDAY, 16TH MAY, 1979, AT 12.00 NOON

The meeting, chaired by the President, Dr. W. Burrows, was attended by approximately 60 members.

Opening

The President's full report is appended. He did, however, stress the following:

Because it is a young Society, it is essential that continuous biennial meetings be held to ensure continued interest by members.

Because we are a young Society, we have had a few teething problems which will be eliminated as the Society matures - we need to benefit from experience.

All present were thanked for their attendance and their contributions to the Conference.

Condon/Roberts

Minutes of Previous AGM

The minutes of the 3rd AGM were read and accepted as a true record.

Orr/Brown

Business Arising:

1. The \$2-00/head subsidy is not being requested to support local meetings.
2. Emblem - only a few contributions have been received in spite of the financial reward offered. Contributions received have been presented in sketch form by a commercial artist for comment. Further suggestions are required.

Incoming council should make a decision this year.

Treasurer's Report:

Circulated - appended.

Presented by W. Burrows in G-Lee's absence.

Squares/Edey

Noted by V. Squires that bank charges are unusually high, and probably as a result of shifting the Australian Council around the States.

Noted by J. Edey that the interest received is trivial compared with the assets. Suggested the \$2-\$3 000 be invested in short term bonds.

Membership Report:

Presented by W. Burrows on behalf of Treasurer, G. Lee.

Appended.

There are a large number of unfinancial members as of 16/5/79. The discount idea has not worked in encouraging early payment and it appears that reminders will have to be sent out.

Report accepted.

Vickery/Lay

Correspondence:

Dealt with by council

Report from the business manager of the Journal:

Appended.

Report accepted.

Condon/Tupper

A.R.S. Publication Account

This account will require \$3 000 to publish the Poplar-Box Symposium and the next US/Aust. proceedings. R. Lamacraft suggested that there should be a charge against reprints, and that we could possibly gain some recognition and fees for use of material from our Journal by other bodies because of US copyright law.

Elections:

The President advised that the following nomination for Council had been received:

President - Mr J. Vickery, Department of Lands, Adelaide, South Australia.

Vice President - Dr V.R. Squares, C.S.I.R.O., Division of Land Resource Management, Alice Springs, N.T.

Hon. Secretary - Mr M.C. Willcocks, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Adelaide, South Australia

Hon. Treasurer - Mr K. Casperson, Department for the Environment Adelaide, South Australia.

There being no other nominations, the above officers were declared elected. Council now consists of the above officers, the Past President, Dr W. Burrows, and the Editor (ex officio), K.M. Howes.

General Business:

1. Reprints - Noted by W. Whalley that 25 reprints are provided free and any further copies are paid for.
2. Copyright - Needs to be referred to M. Howes and the business manager.
3. The Journal - Problems with the frequency of the Journal were explained by W. Whalley. It was originally decided to wait for enough material to publish a thick journal. It has now been decided to publish no less than two issues per year to ensure continued interest. Material received is rigidly refereed.

T. Pressland commented that the Journal needed to have a balance between contributions from scientists and pastoralists and that one way of achieving this would be for extension workers to assist pastoralists in preparing articles for the Journals. The problem of pastoralists using botanical names needs to be recognised and an effort made by both parties to cope with it. There is the possibility of publishing proceedings of local branches which could help overcome the communication problem in the Society. This latter suggestion was supported by D. Condon.

J. Anderson noted that the recording of interchange at the local level is important in becoming aware of problems and historically why particular practices are continued.

W. Whalley further commented that articles in a journal are interpreted in a broad sense and therefore need to be scientifically correct and ordered so that they can be clearly understood. Because of this the authors need to be prepared to accept the criticism of the referees and editors.

L. Lord noted that pastoralists do not have the quantity of facts that scientists gather to present material.

V. Squires suggested that because pastoralists opinions are valued that they use the newsletter in the first instance and that the editors may then invite the author to expand the contribution for the Journal.

T. Fatchen and J. Vickery further supported this approach, noting that the newsletter has only a minimum of refereeing.

4. International Rangeland Congress

Moved that the executive examine the possibility of hosting the Congress to be held in 1988 in Australia, and, if necessary, form an appropriate sub-committee to do so.

Whalley/Nicolson

J. Anderson supported the motion and suggested Adelaide as a venue.

B. Roberts suggested that the executive take the responsibility.

W. Whalley stressed the point that the executive have the widest brief to see who might take the responsibility, e.g. R. Perry or O. Williams or anyone from overseas.

Motion carried unanimously.

5. Brought to the attention of the meeting by J. Edey that the next ANZAAS meeting in Adelaide in 1980 will include one morning session on Rangeland matters which will be given by ARS members.
6. Next meeting - Left for council to decide date, venue and time and whether to leave this until the next Australian Arid Zone Conference in 1981.

Meeting closed at 1.10pm

PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE FOURTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE AUSTRALIAN RANGELANDS SOCIETY HELD IN ADELAIDE, S.A. ON 16TH MAY, 1979.

The Australian Rangeland Society, which has now been functioning for four years, has gone through a period of consolidation during the past 12 months. Our membership appears to have levelled off in the vicinity of 350-400 members of whom c.350 were financial for 1978. It is now 12 months since the last sub-branch of the Society was formed. Our Newsletter and Journal have established themselves on a reasonably sound footing and we are now committed to publishing two Journal issues a year.

During the year your council met four times. The first was a combined meeting of the old and new council at Bourke in May 1978, at the time of the last AGM, and a further three meetings were held in Charleville. Council attends to the general running of Society affairs and matters arising from these meetings are reported in the Newsletter.

Council was very disappointed in being unable to attract some support for grazier (pastoralist) members of our society to attend its conferences. One of the prime functions of our Society is to bring together all of the groups concerned with Australia's Rangelands and I would hope that future Councils continue to examine ways of removing obvious inequities in conference attendance amongst our membership.

Council invited members to submit ideas for a Society emblem or logo during the year. Some of these ideas have been further developed by a commercial artist for our consideration. Hopefully we will have an emblem acceptable to the membership within the next 12 months.

The science and practice of range management received a considerable boost during the year with the holding of the 1st International Rangeland Congress in Denver, Colorado. Our society was well represented at this meeting with about 12 members present. The next International Rangeland Congress will be in Venezuela in 1983. Owen Williams, who represents this Society on the continuing committee for the International Rangeland Congresses, reports that there is considerable interest in having the third Congress in Australia. While this is sometime in the future this Society will have to formulate its attitude towards this proposal during the next year.

On the local scene we have had more limited attendance at our Adelaide Conference than the organisers would have wished. Given the distribution of our membership and current financial constraints I was personally quite happy with the response. It was a decision of the last Council to hold a Society conference every two years. This seems a reasonable objective to me, considering the stage of the Society's development. I would certainly be sorry to see longer than two years between Conferences. It has been suggested recently to me that the ARS may be able to jointly sponsor the next Australian Arid Zone meeting in conjunction with the Society's next conference in 1981. I hope this approach can be vigorously pursued as it offers welcome support to what is a difficult organisational task.

Council has agreed that the Australian Rangeland Journal can be the publication medium for papers presented at the recent Poplar Box Symposium. Poplar Box communities represent some of the most diverse rangeland in Eastern Australia and Council is sure that the proceedings of this symposium will be of interest to a large number of ARJ readers. The financial arrangements for publication of these Proceedings will ensure that other than normal publication costs will be recouped.

On the subject of the ARJ and the Range Management Newsletter I must urge all members to support their publications with submitted material. Our Society cannot survive without communication and because of its geographical problems most of this communication must be through the written word. I cannot pass this opportunity without thanking our editor and business manager Malcolm Howes, the immediate past Chairman of the Editorial Committee Wal Whalley and Newsletter editor Tim Fatchen for their continued diligent and voluntary efforts on behalf of the Society's publications.

I must also mention the fine support I have received over the past 12 months from our Secretary John Childs and Treasurer, Graeme Lee. In particular I would like to commend Graeme's husbanding of our finances and his considerable work in giving us a modern Membership register.

Finally I would like to remind members that in terms of its sister bodies such as ASAP, AIAS and TGS and ARS is a very young Australian society. While its future now seems assured we must not hold unrealistic expectations of the Australian Rangeland Society at this stage of its existence. For all that it has been my experience of the Councils of the Society that they are only too willing to receive and act upon suggestions from the membership. So members please accept the challenge!

In conclusion I would like to wish the incoming Council every success in their management of our Society's affairs over the next 12 months.

AUSTRALIAN RANGELAND SOCIETYBALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 1978ASSETS

Bank A/cs: - New South Wales, Brisbane	6060.49		
- A.N.Z. Adelaide	<u>200.00</u>		
	6260.49		
Petty Cash on hand	30.00		
Subscriptions in Arrears 1977/78	705.00		
Stock Publication Account			
Journal 205 @ \$7.00	1435.00		
2nd US/Aust Proceedings			
134 @ \$5.00	<u>670.00</u>	2105.00	<u>\$9100.49</u>

LIABILITIES

Accumulated Funds 1/1/78	4848.21		
Add - Excess Income over Expenditure 1978	3384.75		
- Stock adjustment			
1978	2105.00		
1977	<u>1515.86</u>	589.14	
		<u>8822.10</u>	
Subscriptions in Advance 1979	<u>278.39</u>		<u>\$9100.49</u>

SUBSCRIPTIONS

If you are one of the many currently unfinancial members please read and remember the following for future reference.

In RMN 78/4 (December), Council stated that subscriptions for 1979 would be \$16, with a \$2 discount for members who paid up before the 1st July, 1979. Not very many members have taken advantage of this discount. The point is that subscriptions cover a calendar, not a financial year, and if most members continue their current practice of paying subs in the latter half of the calendar, the Society not only is faced with a large hole in its collective wallet in the first part of the year, but also is faced with mailing reminder notices at considerable cost in postage, stationery and time. Financially, it loses both ways which means that you, as a member, lose too.

So, if you haven't yet paid up, please do so (at \$16 after 1 July 1979) and please pay early in 1980 (and benefit from the discount). Note that the current treasurer is

Mr K. Casperson
c/- Department for the Environment
Ansett House,
150 North Terrace,
ADELAIDE, S.A. 5000

INCOME

Subscriptions - Membership		5544.70	
" - Journal	15.00		
Less Tfrd to Publication A/c	15.00	-	
Bank Interest	43.76	43.76	5588.46

EXPENDITURE

Petty Cash Expenses		36.53	
Bank Charges Chqs Repurchased)	19.30		
by Bank)	2.40 -	16.90	
Stationery		55.23	
Postages		18.00	
Duty Stamps		2.00	
Conference and ACM Exps		40.00	
Audit Fee A/c 1977		35.00	
Transfer Aust. Rangeland Society - Publication Account		2 000.00	2203.71
Excess Income over Expenditure Transferred to Accumulated Funds			\$3384.75

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS ACCOUNT
FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST DEC. 1978

1978 Refunds	15.00	1978 Cash	5116.29	
" In Advance C/d	278.39	+ Bk Chgs.	16.80	5133.09
T/fr Income and Expenditure A/c	5544.70	" Arears c/d		705.00
	\$ 5838.09			\$ 5838.09
1/1/1979 Balance b/d (Subs in Arrears)	\$705.00	1/1/1979 Balance b/d (Subs in Advance)	\$ 278.39	

PAYMENTS

Newsletter	698.79
Journal	2978.95
4th US/Aust. Proceedings	296.00
	3973.74
Balance as at 31st December 1978	1219.74
	5193.48

RECEIPTS

Balance as at 31st December 1977	1566.21
Transfer from A.R.S. A/c	2000.00
Newsletters Subs.	21.00
Journal Subs.	179.09
2nd US/Aust. Proceedings	1322.69
3rd " "	28.28
Bank Interest	76.21
	5193.48

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1978

PUBLICATION ACCOUNT

I hereby certify that I have examined the books of the Australian Rangeland Society and found them to be correct.

[Signature]
AUDITOR *AKSA*

THOUGHTS ON CONFERENCES

As already stated, the 1979 Conference presented a sheaf of problems relating to intent, organisation and support. Some were satisfactorily resolved - others were not. The A.R.S. needs to clarify its attitude to its Conferences, particularly as regards precisely what is expected to achieve and the best way of achieving it. This sorting out should not be left until the next conference is almost upon us, but should start now. Accordingly, the rest of this newsletter provides two, largely opposing views, and space will be available in future newsletters for further comment.

MORE CONFERENCE COMMENTS

From: Graeme Tupper, C.S.I.R.O. Rangelands Research Centre,
Private Bag, Deniliquin, N.S.W. 2710.

I would like to give a few suggestions regarding future Conferences of the Australian Rangeland Society.

Whilst I believe that the grass-roots strength of the Society is to be found at the regional branch level, I also believe that the National Conference performs a very vital function, even although there may never be a large proportion of members at a Conference, and some members may never be in a position to attend a National Conference. It is the only forum of the Society which has a widespread face-to-face representation, and therefore it should be exploited as fully as possible for a maximum exchange of facts, ideas, and opinions.

My suggestions about the Conference are influenced to some extent by my recent experiences in Southern Africa. The Grassland Society of Southern Africa (G.S.S.A.) has approximately 250 ordinary members (mostly from South Africa) plus a few "Member Institutions". It has quite a few "primary producer" members, but they are in the minority. The G.S.S.A. has a Congress in January each year, and publishes a Proceedings each year containing papers which are regarded as "Publications", having gone through normal refereeing processes.

My suggestions are as follows:

1. The Conference of the A.R.S. should be held at least every two years. If the Conference is to serve any purpose at all, this should be considered as the minimum frequency. The only alternative which should be considered is an annual frequency.
2. The Conference should be held at the same time of the year, and the date and venue should be announced well in advance, preferably 12 months.
3. Serious consideration should be given to the "optimum" time of the year for holding the Conference. For many government employees, the early part of the financial year may be the best time for them to stand the greatest change for obtaining financial support to attend the Conference. However, a compromise solution is probable.
4. Although it is always worthwhile conducting (a) tour(s) in association with the Conference, these should be regarded as optional extras.
5. The Conference venue should be relatively central with respect to the national distribution of members, and easy to reach by public and private transport.

6. Much thought should go into the type of contributed and invited papers required for the Conference. We could have three or four categories, viz.:

- a. Scientific papers presenting completed experimental work. These papers should be refereed and be acceptable for publication, and could form an issue of the Society's Journal, after the Conference.
- b. Scientific papers presenting uncompleted work, tentative results, or whatever. These papers will not have been accepted for publication.
- c. Invited review papers - these could also have been through the publication system and be ready for inclusion in the Journal.
- d. Grazier contributions - these could be around a specific topic or topics, suggested by the organisers.

Although there could be some mixing of these different types of papers in the programme, by and large I believe it would be best if the different sections were kept separate.

If we establish these, or other, sections permanently, then potential contributors will know exactly what is required, and could prepare well in advance.

Consideration should be given to the awarding of "prizes", i.e. the giving of recognition in some way, to the best contribution in each section, and possibly the best contribution for the whole Conference. This type of award is used in some other organisations, and apparently it is an additional honour which helps to spur contributors on to (a) make a contribution, and (b) do their best possible job in the preparation of the contribution.

7. We should seek from Society members who are involved in communications/public relations activities in their professional jobs, suggestions on how the Society could improve its P.R. The National Conference provides an ideal opportunity for using press, radio, and TV to get our message across to the public and persons in authority, as well as publicising the Society, and hopefully leading to further membership recruitment, and greater interest generally in the Rangelands. Similar expertise could be used at the regional level. Various organisations, including CSIRO, now have specialists in communication amongst their ranks.
8. Participation of overseas personnel. If we are aware of the presence or likely presence in our country at the time of our Conference, of an overseas rangeland specialist, he/she should be given the opportunity to be an invited speaker at the Conference to help improve our knowledge of, and our communication with, rangeland activities and workers, respectively, in other parts of the world.
9. The Annual General Meeting. This is a vital part of the Conference. Naturally it is closed to non-members, and it is perhaps here that the liveliest debates should take place. The agenda needs to be well publicised, and adequate time is needed for the meeting. Members need the opportunity to consider and discuss, and Council needs to obtain a consensus of opinion from the members about the various Society matters of concern to the whole membership.

In conclusion, our Society and Council are doing a good job, but there is room for improvement, particularly in the organisation of Conferences. We all want our Society to be first class in its usefulness to its members, and in fact to all with an interest and concern for the rangelands of Australia.

YET MORE THOUGHTS ON CONFERENCE FORMAT

From: John Taylor, Department of Ecosystem Management, University of New England, Armidale N.S.W. 2351.

An important objective of the Society is "to provide a means for the interchange of ideas and information...". Conferences are one way to achieve this, but I believe that our present conference format fails to achieve this objective as best it could. This is certainly not due to a lack of enthusiasm or effort on the part of conference organizers but rather a function of the format for presentation and discussion of a mixed batch of papers to an evenmore mixed batch of characters.

What is proposed here is a revamped conference format - one that might better promote an interchange of ideas and information among characters of quite diverse backgrounds.

Day 1 - Workshop Sessions:

These should allow for a relatively informal, loosely structured discussion of current or perceived problems; whether they be of a practical or technical nature. Items for discussion could be summarized and circulated prior to the meeting. Chaired sessions, on topics such as Plant, Animal or Technical Problems could be run concurrently (?), with members being involved in discussions on particular topics of interest.

This would give graziers/pastoralists and ideal opportunity to define their problems to a broad group of researchers. It is hoped that the graziers would contribute heavily to these sessions.

A summary of the outcome of discussions could be submitted to the Newsletter (and/or Journal?).

Day 2 - Range Management Papers:

Ten to twelve quality papers of direct relevance to the grazier could be presented in the course of the day. A short discussion period should follow each paper with (at least(?)) half an hours discussion (not just fifteen minutes!) at the end of the section.

Graziers should be encouraged to submit papers (ghost - written if necessary) on experiences in management whether successful or otherwise.

Day 3 - Range Science Papers:

Quality papers on aspects of the study of rangelands or range management would be appropriate here. Discussion time should be as suggested above.

Researchers should be encouraged to submit papers even if it be 'early days' for the work. Constructive criticism by graziers and other researchers at an early stage might result in more relevant research and less academic fiddling.

Day 4 plus - Post-conference Tour:

By grouping material and papers as suggested, the grazier, extension officer or researcher has the opportunity to select and attend those sessions of particular interest or relevance. I would sincerely hope that they would attend all, but this may not always be possible.

WHY BOTHER WITH SCIENTIFIC NAMES?

From: Garnham Skipper, Manunda Station, Yunta, S.A. 5440

With reference to my article on kangaroos in RMN 4/78 (December), this is where the Grazier corrects the Scientist. A "scrubber" kangaroo is not a Euro. Any grazier would know it was a "Black Pouger".

(I stand corrected, at least for Northeast S.A., but what precisely is a Black Pouger? Ed.)

PREACHING TO THE CONVERTED

From: Paul McClure, Pimpara Lake, Broken Hill, N.S.W.

Is it enough for us to go our own way as concerned rangeland managers, administrators and scientists and disregard managers who are not interested in development and progress and who are still using their land exactly the same way their fathers and even grandfathers did?

Whose responsibility is it to enlighten these managers? Is it the scientists, the administrators, or the interested manager responsibility or is it a problem for the people themselves to solve? Do we console ourselves by saying "Economics will eventually force the incompetent out"? Can we go on pretending that uninformed managers don't exist even when the productivity and ecology of our rangelands are suffering because they are not being managed wisely? Why don't these people want to attend Rangeland Society meetings?

Some of the reasons that I have heard are:

- "Haven't the time"
- "too far"
- "mob of snobs"
- "don't like meetings"
- "don't speak my language"
- "can't learn anything from it"

All are possibly valid excuses (given circumstances) but I suggest that most of them haven't even been to one Rangeland meeting so they wouldn't know. Are they just indifferent? How do we get through to or even inform these people?

I feel some effort must be made to reach them even if it is only to hear their criticism and to see new faces at our meetings so that our speakers will not just be "preaching to the converted".

(The question is "How?" : Ed.)