

Foreword

This issue (Volume 44, No 4) will be the last issue of *Tropical Grasslands* published under the auspices of the Tropical Grassland Society of Australia Inc. Since its inception in 1967, the Journal *Tropical Grasslands* has provided an avenue for authors from all countries to publish results of their work on research and development in the evaluation, management and utilisation of pastures and fodder crops in tropical agriculture as well as reviews on these topics. In addition, it has served as a mechanism for publishing proceedings of conferences on tropical pastures and making them much more widely available to people interested in this aspect of agriculture.

Changing contents

Early volumes of the Journal contained only 2 issues per volume, with a limited number of research papers (7–12 per volume), the main content being the proceedings of field days and field meetings. By Volume 4 (1970), 3 issues were being produced and this progressed to 4 issues in Volume 16 (1982), which contained 28 research papers. During the 44 years of production, 160 issues have been produced, 18 of which contained the proceedings of conferences on tropical pastures. The remaining 142 issues contained 1025 research papers and reviews, as well as reviews of 137 newly published books on agricultural topics. In addition, details of 48 new cultivar releases have been presented.

International flavour

It did not take long for the Journal to be recognised as an international journal as the first paper by authors outside Australia (by M.L. Mishra and B.N. Chatterjee from India) was published in Volume 2. More manuscripts soon followed and the number of articles by authors outside Australia steadily grew. As the emphasis on pasture research by research institutions in Australia has

declined over time, the number of contributions from Australian authors has also declined. By the 1990s, numbers of published manuscripts by authors from outside Australia in any year often exceeded those from Australian authors. In total, 435 papers by authors in 54 countries outside Australia have been published.

Member contributions

Many Society members have contributed to the success of the Journal in numerous ways, e.g. in an editorial role, as reviewers and by submitting manuscripts for consideration. An Editorial Advisory Board was appointed in 1987, comprised of: Mr D.G. Cameron, Dr J.N. Clatworthy, Dr L.R. Humphreys, Dr A.E. Kretschmer Jr, Dr L. 't Mannetje, Mr J.S. Pulsford, Dr J.M. Toledo, Dr J.C. Tothill and Dr J.R. Wilson. The composition of the Board has changed over the years with other members to serve as Board members being: Dr M.M. de Carvalho, Dr B.H. Dzwowela, Dr M.J. Fisher, Dr A. Glatzle, Dr I. Goto, Dr J. Hanson, Dr M. Hirata, Mr K.F. Lowe, Dr B.C. Pengelly, Dr R. Schultze-Kraft, Dr H.M. Shelton and Dr W. Stür. Mr J.S. Pulsford, the inaugural President of the Society, has been a member of the Board since its inception. These members have filled an important role in promoting the Journal, reviewing papers as necessary and arbitrating in disputes between the Editor and authors. Their support and contribution are greatly appreciated.

Over the years, many members have assisted the Journal Editor in an editing capacity by serving on Editorial Committees or as Associate Editors. Those who did not serve a term as Journal Editor at some time (see attached list) include: K.B. Addison, C.S. Andrew, A.C. Arvier, A.J. Ash, R.F. Brown, E.O. Burns, D.F. Cameron, D.J. Connor, J.P. Ebersohn, M.J. Fisher, M.A. Gilbert, K. Gold, R.E. Hendricksen, N.D. MacLeod, R. McLean, C.P. Miller, D.J. Minson, J.S. Pulsford, D.P. Poppi, D. Ratcliff and G.B.

Robbins. In addition, numerous scientists from throughout the world have given their time and expertise to review submitted articles to ensure that a high standard was maintained in the material published in the Journal. Without the willing efforts of all of them, the Journal could not have been produced. We are most grateful to all of these people for the time and effort they have devoted to these tasks. They have helped to make the task of the editor so much easier, as well as

maintaining an acceptable standard in published manuscripts.

Without submitted papers, it is impossible to produce a journal like *Tropical Grasslands*. Over the years, there has been a steady supply of manuscripts for consideration. We are most grateful to all authors, both members and non-members, who have supported the Journal by submitting their work for publication.