

Fellow of the Tropical Grassland Society of Australia Inc. 2007

The Society awards Fellowships to those within its membership who have made significant contributions to the understanding, use and improvement of tropical and subtropical pastures.

DAVID LLEWELLYN LLOYD

David Lloyd has been in the forefront of research and development in subtropical pastures for more than four decades, and has contributed greatly to the improvement of productivity in both sown and native pastures over that time. He has evaluated new species and released new cultivars for systems on the fertile cropping lands of the Darling and Western Downs and Maranoa/Balonne, and the poorer granite, traprock and sandstone country, in southern Queensland.

After completing his secondary education, David was awarded a Queensland Department of Agriculture and Stock Fellowship, funded by the Queensland Dairyman's Organisation, to study Agriculture at The University of Queensland. He gained his Bachelor's degree (B. Agr. Sc.) in 1963, spent a year doing post-graduate Honours under Dr Jack Griffiths-Davies, Chief of the Division of Tropical Pastures, CSIRO and was awarded First Class Honours and a University Medal in 1964.

His Fellowship bonded him to the Department and he expected to be appointed to work on dairy pastures at Kairi Research Station. Instead, in 1964, he was appointed Agrostologist (now called Pasture Agronomist) at the Queensland Wheat Research Institute in Toowoomba to work specifically on the development of Bambatsi panic and lucerne as pastures for the grain belt. He is not sure that the QDO ever forgave the Department for using him in that way! However, Bambatsi and the new generation of lucernes with disease and aphid resistance are now widely used and are successful components of pastures on heavy clay soils in southern inland Queensland.

In 1979, he was transferred one street west from the QWRI laboratories in Holberton Street to the Tor Street offices of the Department of Primary Industries—his 'western transfer'. Here, according to some, he 'dug himself in', a scientist who has been extremely happy to have remained a scientist, having what he describes as a good working life—flexibility, a happy environment, working with great scientists and technicians, and with many wonderful farmers. He has led the Plant Science pastures team in the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries, and has managed projects with national, interstate and interagency linkages.

David has always been a great team man and credits much of his success to his enthusiastic research team, that has provided an excellent suite of sown pastures for the zone. The release of these new cultivars has been accompanied by research into their adaptation, agronomy and management with an understanding of their role and implementation in mixed farming systems. In total, his team has released 20 temperate legume cultivars and has released or developed a number of grasses, providing sown pasture options especially for the:

- poorer pastoral soils — forest bluegrass (*Bothriochloa bladhii*), digit grass (*Digitaria smutsii*) and subclover (*Trifolium subterraneum*) for the hard-setting Traprock soils; Brunswick grass (*Paspalum nicorae*), digit grass, subclover and serradella (*Ornithopus compressus*) for the Granite Belt soils; and digit grass and serradella for the sandy soils to the west of the Condamine River.
- cropping soils — Bambatsi panic (*Panicum coloratum*), lucerne, medics and sulla (*Hedysarum coronarium*).

The new serradella and subclover cultivars with high levels of hard seed now guarantee the longevity of those components in pastoral systems; sulla is a highly productive winter forage legume option for cropping systems; new lucernes with increased levels of disease and aphid resistance have been developed for dryland farming in the grain belt; and productive, drought-resistant grasses are providing new well adapted sown pasture options.

To enhance the adoption of pastures to restore soil fertility in the cropping zone, David and his team have developed an action-learning pastures extension package, *LeyGrain*TM, and have delivered *LeyGrain* workshops throughout the grain belt. These have gained strong acceptance by farmers, particularly those in Landcare and Catchment Management groups. *LeyGrain* has gained national credibility and packages have also been developed for two regions in southern Australia.

David was a very capable cricketer, being a deft hand with bat and ball, and carried these all-round skills into his career. During his working life, he claims that he has found no one area of specialist expertise; he says his personality directs him to be curious about many bio-physical and agri-social systems, a good 'starter' but a poor 'finisher'—a jack of all trades and master of many.

David was an inaugural member of the Tropical Grassland Society of Australia and was a Management Committee Member (Field Day Organiser) between 1987 and 1991. Over this period, he coordinated and ran 23 Tropical Grassland Society field days and published the Proceedings of those field days. He was responsible for the conceptualisation and inception of the Tropical Grassland Society ANZ Bank Award (later the MLA Award).

He is Secretary of the Queensland Division of the Australian Institute of Agricultural Science and Technology (AIASST).

David is the author or co-author of 8 books and 3 book chapters, and has written 35 scientific papers in recognised journals, 35 conference papers, 45 extension papers and the *LeyGrain* action-learning program. He was a part of a CRC for Tropical Plant Protection team that was awarded the CRC Association's Award for

Excellence in 2006, for using molecular plant breeding research to develop new high-yielding, disease-resistant lucernes.

From a community perspective, he has been a member of the National Council of the Medical Benefits Fund of Australia since 2005, and has had a long history of voluntary service with parent groups in schools and regional and State organisations associated with education, resulting in life memberships of school and regional parent bodies. He was awarded an Order of Australia Medal (OAM) in 2001 for 'Service to education, particularly through advocacy, the promotion and implementation of community involvement in schools, and in the area of schoolbased management'.

David Lloyd would be a worthy Fellow of the Tropical Grassland Society of Australia Inc.

Nominated by Ian Partridge