

The Harry Stobbs Memorial Fund

The Harry Stobbs Memorial Fund was established following the premature death of Dr Harry Stobbs in September 1978.

Harry Stobbs was born in County Durham in 1932 and read Agriculture at Durham University before obtaining a Postgraduate Diploma in Agriculture from Reading University and a Diploma in Tropical Agriculture from the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, Trinidad. He was awarded a Ph.D. by the University of East Africa in 1967.

His early scientific career was spent in the Research Division of the Uganda Department of Agriculture (1957-1969), and he was in charge of the livestock improvement section at Serere Research Station from 1961. In 1969, Harry joined the CSIRO Division of Tropical Pastures. Little was known about how animals and plants interacted so he began to research the area of grazing behaviour. In order to obtain a better understanding of how animals harvested pasture material, he developed specialised equipment to record specific components of grazing behaviour such as grazing time, rumination time, bite number and bite size. He then conducted a series of experiments in which he measured these parameters on different sward types and sward structures. This was 'cutting edge' research and has enabled a greater understanding of how animals and plants interact at the animal-pasture interface.

Harry believed that the benefits of research were realised only when the results had been communicated to both fellow scientists and practising farmers. During his career he published more than 50 scientific papers and 9 reviews and wrote 5 chapters in books on agricultural science. When his life was cut short in 1978, a group of people representing the University of Queensland, Australian Society of Animal Production and the Tropical Grassland Society of Australia established the Harry Stobbs Memorial Fund to hold 'an annual Memorial Lecture of high international standard, in recognition of Harry Stobbs'

pioneering research on pasture/animal interactions and his efforts to improve communication between farmers and scientists'.



To date, 16 lectures have been presented, covering a wide range of aspects of pasture production and utilisation of pasture by livestock. These have served to communicate scientific developments in pasture science widely to both scientists and farmers, fulfilling Harry's dream of improving interaction between scientists and the farming community and improving the production and utilisation of tropical pastures. A list of the lectures presented to date is as follows:

Harry Stobbs Memorial Lectures

1980: Dr F.H.W. Morley (Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences, University of Melbourne, Veterinary Clinical Centre, Werribee, Victoria). Options in pasture research. *Tropical Grasslands*, **15**, 71-84 (1981). This, the inaugural Harry Stobbs Memorial Lecture, was delivered at the University of Queensland, Brisbane, Queensland, May 1980.

1981: Dr R.E. Blaser (Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, Virginia, USA). Integrated pasture and animal management. *Tropical Grasslands*, **16**, 9-24 (1982).

1982: Dr V.R. Squires (Department of Natural Resources, Roseworthy Agricultural College, Roseworthy, South Australia). Behaviour of free-ranging livestock on native grasslands and shrublands. *Tropical Grasslands*, **16**, 161-170 (1982).

1984: Dr R.F. Barnes (USDA/ARS, PO Box 19227, New Orleans, Louisiana, USA). The savanna resource in ruminant production sys-

tems. *Tropical Grasslands*, **19**, 99-109 (1985). The lecture was delivered at the International Savanna Symposium, Brisbane, Queensland, May 1984.

1985: Mr R.E. Harrison ("Bilarabyn", Mail Service 185, Beaudesert, Queensland). The role of improved pastures in commercial production in the tropics and sub-tropics. *Tropical Grasslands*, **20**, 3-17 (1986); also published in *Tropical Grassland Society Occasional Publication No. 3*, pp. 169-188 (1986). The lecture was delivered at the 3rd Australian Conference on Tropical Pastures, Rockhampton, Queensland, July 1985.

1987: Dr R.J. Jones (CSIRO Division of Tropical Crops and Pastures, Davies Laboratory, Townsville, Queensland). The future for the grazing herbivore. *Tropical Grasslands*, **22**, 97-115 (1988). The lecture was presented at the 2nd International Symposium on the Nutrition of Herbivores, Brisbane, Queensland, July 1987.

1990: Dr C. Lascano (CIAT, Cali, Colombia). Managing the grazing resource for animal production in savannas of tropical America. *Tropical Grasslands*, **25**, 66-72 (1991). The lecture was delivered at the 4th Australian Conference on Tropical Pastures, Toowoomba, Queensland, November 1990.

1993: Dr S. Archer (Department of Rangeland Ecology and Management, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas, USA). Herbivore mediation of grass-woody plant interactions. *Tropical Grasslands*, **29**, 218-235 (1995). The lecture was delivered at the XVII International Grassland Congress, Rockhampton, Queensland, February 1993.

1994: Dr L. 't Mannetje (Agricultural University, Department of Agronomy, Wageningen, The Netherlands). Potential and prospects of legume-based pastures in the tropics. *Tropical Grasslands*, **31**, 81-94 (1997). The lecture was presented in Brisbane in 1994, while Dr 't Mannetje was on sabbatical leave with the CSIRO Division of Tropical Crops and Pastures.

1995: Dr J.W. Stuth (Department of Rangeland Ecology and Management, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas, USA). Managing grazing lands: Critical information infrastructures and knowledge requirements for the future. *Tropical Grasslands*, **30**, 2-17 (1996).

1996: Professor F. Provenza (Utah State University, Utah, USA). Familiarity and novelty in animal diets: Implications for management. *Proceedings of the Australian Society of Animal Production*, **21**, 12-16 (1996). The lecture was presented at the 21st biennial conference of the Australian Society of Animal Production.

1997: Dr J.B. Schiere (Wageningen Agricultural University, Animal Production Systems Group, Wageningen Institute of Animal Sciences, Wageningen, The Netherlands - with H. van Keulen). Rethinking high input systems of livestock production: a case study of nitrogen emissions in Dutch dairy farming. *Tropical Grasslands*, **33**, 1-10 (1999).

2002: Dr W.H. Burrows (Queensland Beef Industry Institute, Department of Primary Industries, Rockhampton, Queensland). Seeing the wood (land) for the trees – An individual perspective of Queensland woodland studies (1965-2005). *Tropical Grasslands*, **36**, 202-217 (2002).

2008: Associate Professor G.R. Edwards (Agriculture Group, Agriculture and Life Sciences Division, Lincoln University, NZ – with A.J. Parsons and R.H. Bryant). Manipulating dietary preference to improve animal performance. *Australian Journal of Experimental Agriculture*, **48**, 773-779. The lecture was presented at the first joint meeting of the Australian and New Zealand Societies of Animal Production, Brisbane, Queensland, June 2008.

2009: Dr M.J. Fisher (CIAT, Cali, Colombia). Carbon sequestration: science and practicality. *Tropical Grasslands*, **43**, 239-248 (2009). The lecture was presented at the 8th Australian Tropical Pastures Conference, Goondiwindi, Queensland, March 2009.

2010: Dr D.L. Swain (Centre for Environmental Management, University of Central Queensland, Rockhampton; formerly CSIRO Livestock Industries, Rockhampton – with M. Friend, G.J. Bishop-Hurley, R.N. Handcock and T. Wark). GPS tracking, are we still lost? *Animal Production Science* (in press). The lecture was presented at the 28th biennial conference of the Australian Society of Animal Production, Armidale, New South Wales, July 2010 and will be published in *Animal Production Science*.