

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE AUSTRALIAN RANGELAND SOCIETY  
BIENNIAL CONFERENCE**

**Official publication of The Australian Rangeland Society**

**Copyright and Photocopying**

© The Australian Rangeland Society 2012. All rights reserved.

For non-personal use, no part of this item may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without prior permission of the Australian Rangeland Society and of the author (or the organisation they work or have worked for). Permission of the Australian Rangeland Society for photocopying of articles for non-personal use may be obtained from the Secretary who can be contacted at the email address, [rangelands.exec@gmail.com](mailto:rangelands.exec@gmail.com)

For personal use, temporary copies necessary to browse this site on screen may be made and a single copy of an article may be downloaded or printed for research or personal use, but no changes are to be made to any of the material. This copyright notice is not to be removed from the front of the article.

All efforts have been made by the Australian Rangeland Society to contact the authors. If you believe your copyright has been breached please notify us immediately and we will remove the offending material from our website.

**Form of Reference**

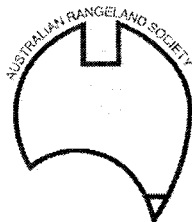
The reference for this article should be in this general form;  
Author family name, initials (year). Title. *In*: Proceedings of the nth Australian Rangeland Society Biennial Conference. Pages. (Australian Rangeland Society: Australia).

For example:

Anderson, L., van Klinken, R. D., and Shepherd, D. (2008). Aerially surveying Mesquite (*Prosopis* spp.) in the Pilbara. *In*: 'A Climate of Change in the Rangelands. Proceedings of the 15<sup>th</sup> Australian Rangeland Society Biennial Conference'. (Ed. D. Orr) 4 pages. (Australian Rangeland Society: Australia).

**Disclaimer**

The Australian Rangeland Society and Editors cannot be held responsible for errors or any consequences arising from the use of information obtained in this article or in the Proceedings of the Australian Rangeland Society Biennial Conferences. The views and opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Australian Rangeland Society and Editors, neither does the publication of advertisements constitute any endorsement by the Australian Rangeland Society and Editors of the products advertised.



*The Australian Rangeland Society*

# PRACTICAL GRAZING MANAGEMENT HOMESTUDY COURSE

*B. Roberts and B. Alchin*

Land Use Study Centre, University of Southern Queensland, Toowoomba Qld 4350

## ABSTRACT

*Since 1983 the staff of the Land Use Study Centre have offered nation-wide homestudies, first in Soil Conservation, then in Effective Rural Groups and Fire Management, and more recently in Practical Landcare Techniques and Practical Grazing Management. The courses run continuously, with starting and finishing times determined by the participants. There are no prerequisites and no residential requirements. Assignments are of a practical problem-solving type on case-study land selected by the participant. Learning materials include a studybook, book of readings, textbook and videotapes. A Certificate of Completion is awarded to successful candidates. Learning packages are made available as stand-alone materials without assignments to independent learners.*

## INTRODUCTION

Information access and technology transfer are major elements of Landcare programs. While many land managers choose field days and demonstrations as their preferred mode of gaining new information, there is an increasing call for information materials which can be used not only by producers but by advisors, consultants, coordinators, facilitators and commercial agents.

When the Murray-Darling Basin Commission offered funding for education projects on natural resource use in 1994, the Land Use Study Centre contracted to produce study materials designed in consultation with user groups in the Basin.

## APPROACH

Stage 1 of the project was to identify and evaluate existing homestudy courses in any spheres relating to rangelands, pasture management, property planning and pastoral production. Stage 2 was to circulate to selected community groups and leaders in the field, a list of possible topics, presentation modes and assessment schemes for their advice. Stage 3 was the collection of literature and electronic information on the preferred topics from existing databases, organisations and individuals. Stage 4 was the design of the Studybook content and the evaluation of selected readings to be integrated into the course content. Available videotapes were identified and analysed for inclusion. Stage 5 was the production of 50 copies of the Practical Grazing Management Studybook (164 pp.) and Book of Readings (131 pp.), together with the production of the second edition of *Western Grasses: Management Edition*, to serve as text for grass identification and condition indicator assessment. The short print-run was aimed at trialling the course for 12 months, using a participant feedback form as a basis for modifying and improving the materials and presentation as recommended by the users.

## STUDYBOOK TOPICS

1. Types of Grazing Land in the Murray-Darling Basin.
2. Property Planning and Grazing Resource Mapping.
3. Condition Assessment of Native Pastures.
4. Feed Value and Carrying Capacity Estimates.
5. The Tree/Grass Balance.
6. Livestock Breeding and Management.
7. Grazing Management: Principles and Practices.
8. Integrating Additional Feed Supplies.
9. Economic Records and Analysis.

10. Rehabilitation Techniques.
11. Fauna and Pest Animal Management.

### **BOOK OF READINGS**

The chapter-integrated readings were selected from *Management of Australia's Rangelands* (CSIRO 1984), *Native Pastures in Queensland* (QDPI 1988) and *Livestock Management in the Arid Zone* (Squires 1981), making a total of 131 pages.

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

Three practical assignments are set for application to a property selected by the candidate. These assignments are: (a) Map vegetation, degradation and present improvements. Evaluate condition and give reasons for present condition. (b) Recommend changes to management and infrastructure, giving sequence and rationale for each recommendation. (c) Make a financial analysis of the cost and benefits of changes within a Property Management Planning framework and indicate how coordination with neighbours can aid feral animal control, kangaroo harvesting, wildlife corridor correctiveness and runoff control.

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The authors are grateful to the Murray-Darling Basin Commission for funding this course and to Miss Marie Schulz who word-processed all the materials.