

# ACROSS THE OUTBACK

Number 43

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Produced for Outback SA

## Arid Lands Muster a rural living expo

To support our community, the Arid Lands Muster expo is your opportunity to do a bit of socialising as well as hear industry leaders talk on some of the big issues of our region. The SAAL NRM Board is hosting the Arid Lands Muster on **19-20 June** at the Cooina Club, Port Augusta. For more information see the flier in this issue, or contact the Board on (08) 8648 5977.

## Fencing and Exotic Breeds of Sheep

As discussed in January, the Pastoral Board has received a number of complaints from lessees regarding exotic breeds of sheep breaching boundary fences and straying into their paddocks. In response to this and the increasing number of lessees running exotic breeds the Pastoral Board adopted a new fencing policy at its meeting on 2 April 2009.

While the policy applies to all livestock, it is particularly relevant to the containment of exotic breeds of sheep. **(continued on page 2...)**

## Feral Goat Program Kicks Off

Australian and State Government funding is being applied to assist landholders remove feral goats from the rangelands of South Australia. The SA Arid Lands NRM Board is one of three NRM Boards involved in this program, assisted by the Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation, Department for Environment and Heritage and Rural Solutions SA.

The number of feral goats present in the rangelands of SA is increasing, having already reached levels where the damage caused is unacceptable. A population of 380,000 feral goats is estimated to represent a 15 percent increase from the same time last year. The project will begin in May and will assist participating landholders to implement a range of removal methods designed to reduce numbers to low levels. Landholders will benefit from a coordinated approach enabled by the project. **(continued on page 7...)**

## National Youth Week Celebrations

In March and April, five outback centres in South Australia staged community events for National Youth Week (NYW). The Outback Areas Community Development Trust in conjunction with the Office for Youth supported Leigh Creek, Penong and Andamooka in running a series of fun events for young people. The Trust also supported NYW events in Marree and Woomera. **(continued on page 5...)**

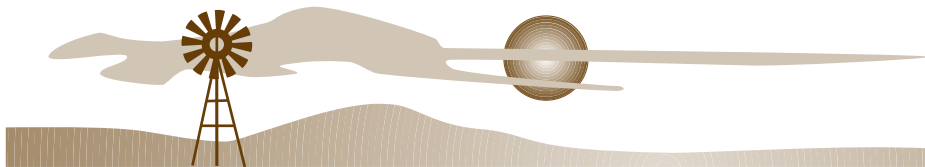


A photograph competition was held in Leigh Creek to showcase local talent

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## Changes to the Pastoral Program and staff

There have been some changes to the Pastoral Program and staff as a result of a restructure of the Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation (DWLBC). One of the outcomes of the restructure has been the merging of the land management functions within DWLBC under a Land Management Unit. This unit brings together the Pastoral Program and the Agricultural Land Management Program. The new land Management Unit will offer a critical mass of staff and resources to drive forward land management activities across both pastoral and agricultural areas of the state. The Pastoral Program will retain its own identity within the Land Management Unit, and staff in the program will continue to provide support to Pastoral lessees and the Pastoral Board. Through the new structure the Pastoral Program will be supported with delivery of services from within a larger group.

The restructure has also resulted in a change of staff with Mr Glenn Gale being appointed as the manager of the new Land



Glenn Gale

Management Unit. Glenn was previously the manager of the Agricultural Land Management Program. Glenn brings a high level of skill and experience to this role, with a 25 year career in managing programs and projects focussed on sustainable land management in collaboration with industry, research and community-based organisations. For much of the last 10 years Glenn has been based at the Waite campus managing state-level programs. Prior to that he worked from several regional locations and began his career working on soil conservation projects with the Department of Agriculture

### Pastoral Board and Program Contacts:

#### The Pastoral Board of SA

Prescott Building, Entry 5, Waite Campus Waite Road, Urrbrae SA (GPO Box 2834, Adelaide SA 5001)

#### General Enquiries:

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#### Specific contacts in Adelaide and Port Augusta:

Presiding Member:  
Michael McBride - 0427 087 966

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Glenn Gale - (08) 8303 9345

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Glenn Gale - (08) 8303 9345

Public Access to pastoral lands:  
David Oag - (08) 8648 5174

Public Lease Assessments:  
Craig Boulderstone (08) 8303 9752

at Jamestown, which included some work in the rangelands.

David Leek, the former manager of the Pastoral Program, is now the Manager of the Natural Resources Management Partnerships Unit formed through the restructure. David's involvement with the region will continue as his new role involves strengthening the partnerships between DWLBC and the boards and organisations it works with on sustainable management of natural resources, including the Pastoral Board and the Natural Resources Management Boards.

## Fencing and Exotic Breeds of Sheep (...continued from page 1)

The Board acknowledges that merino sheep can sometimes breach boundary fences, but in most instances this does not result in significant financial losses to the neighbour. The exotic dorper and damara breeds of sheep appear to have less respect for the standard "merino" type fences and as such can breach boundary fences more frequently and in greater numbers. Where breaches occur there is the potential for significant economic loss to the neighbouring lessee through wool contamination and loss of breeding integrity.

The policy adopted by the Pastoral Board is that "landholders should be responsible for their livestock and not cause unreasonable economic loss to their neighbours. The cost of a standard type fence should be equally shared between neighbours and the cost of additional upgrades be borne by the landholder that requires a

higher-grade fence". For example, lessees carrying damaras or dorpers are responsible for any upgrade required to contain these sheep. Lessees are also reminded of their obligation under the *Pastoral Land Management and Conservation Act 1989* to maintain existing fencing in a stockproof condition.

The Board is also considering other issues regarding exotic breeds of sheep. For example, these breeds appear to have a broader range of diet and are very efficient foragers and so the dry sheep equivalent for exotic breeds could be higher than that for merino sheep. For further information please contact Senior Pastoral Inspector, Chris Turner, on toll free 1800 678 447 or (08) 8303 9755.

### **New 4WD Tracks & Repeater Towers Brochure**

A new edition of the brochure "4WD Tracks & Repeater Towers" has been produced. In its sixth year of publication, the brochure includes details of the newest operators to open their properties to four-wheel drive enthusiasts, as well as tracks, camp spots and accommodation options in rugged areas of SA. It also includes a map identifying Public Access Routes and repeater towers for Citizens' Band (CB) radio users.

The brochure is a joint initiative between Flinders Ranges and Outback SA Tourism, Eyre Peninsula Tourism, Outback Areas Community Development Trust and Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation, and co-funded by the Department for Environment and Heritage. A copy of the map is available by contacting the

### **Outback Calendar:**

Get Back 2 Tarcoola Weekend June 6  
 Marree Picnic Races and Gymkhana June 6  
 Arid Lands Muster: A Rural Living Expo June 19-20  
 Oodnadatta Bronco Branding and Campdraft July 11  
 Marree Camel Cup July 4

If your event or meeting date has been set, let us know. (Remember, *Across the Outback* is published bi-monthly so the next issue will be in July. Please email any additions to [barker.jenny2@saugov.sa.gov.au](mailto:barker.jenny2@saugov.sa.gov.au))

Pastoral Program in Adelaide or from our Port Augusta office.

### **Rangelands 2008 - Taking the Pulse**

Craig Boulderstone

Extreme climatic variability in the rangelands makes it difficult to separate change resulting from seasonal climate variation, from that driven by human activities. Australian Collaborative Rangeland Information System (ACRIS) is a partnership between Australian Government organisations and agencies in SA, WA, QLD, NT, and NSW are responsible for resource management and biodiversity conservation. The role of the agencies is to collect and interpret rangeland data and make them available to ACRIS. ACRIS facilitates data collation and documentation for reporting on regional and national changes in the rangelands.

"Rangelands 2008 - Taking the pulse" has been produced by ACRIS to bring together comparative data on conditions across the rangelands for the reporting period of 1992 to 2005. This builds on the findings of "Rangelands - Tracking Changes" (NLWRA 2001). The report is based on mostly unpublished data providing

coverage from a regional to a national scale. As is often the case, it is not based on a consensus of *expert opinion* or literature reviews, which often lack relevance to the entire rangelands.

The themes of the report are climate variability, landscape function, sustainable management, total grazing pressure, biodiversity, management of water resources and socioeconomics.

To download a copy go to <http://www.environment.gov.au/land/rangelands/acris/index.html> or you may order a summary booklet that includes a full copy of the report on CD. Look for the link to supporting publications. In a future edition of ATO, I will attempt to summarise some of the findings of this pioneering report.

### **Maintenance of Public Access Routes**

Regular readers will be aware that the Pastoral Board is responsible for the management of the Public Access Route (PAR) network in South Australia. There are 21 PARs providing access to places of interest on pastoral leases, with a total length of around 650 km. Maintenance work on several routes

has recently been undertaken in preparation for the coming tourist season.

As reported in the last edition of ATO, media articles about water in Lake Eyre have prompted a level of visitation to the outback not seen in recent years. Two PARs provide access to Lake Eyre and are likely to be heavily used by those hopeful of viewing water in the lake. The Level Post Bay PAR starts at Muloorina homestead and takes visitors to the southern shore of Lake Eyre North, a distance of 51 km from Muloorina Homestead. This PAR was graded in time for the Easter school holiday traffic.

The Halligan Point PAR provides access to the western edge of Lake Eyre North, starting from the Oodnadatta Track approximately 15 kilometres south of William Creek. This PAR is 64 km long and has been graded and had drainage improved in time for the Easter rush. This work cost approximately \$60,000 and was funded jointly by DWLBC, Tourism SA and DEH.

The Warburton K1 PAR remains closed due to flooding in the Warburton Creek, and is likely to be closed for several months yet. This route provides access to the Simpson Desert from the Birdsville track through Clifton Hills pastoral lease. At the time of writing the Pedirka PAR (Hamilton to Dalhousie) was also being graded in readiness for the impending tourist season. All public access routes are currently open although some, such as the Artimore track through Moolooloo Station to Blinman, need to be

approached with caution. The portion of this PAR from Moolooloo homestead to Hannigans Gap is in fair condition. However, the through track to Artimore is extremely rough with numerous washouts. This track should only be accessed using a high clearance four-wheel drive vehicle with an experienced driver.

Access request forms are available on the Pastoral Program website for visitors seeking permission to visit pastoral areas not covered by the PAR network.

[www.dwlbc.sa.gov.au/land/rangelands/public\\_access/](http://www.dwlbc.sa.gov.au/land/rangelands/public_access/)

### **Pastoral Lease Assessment Update**

Craig Baulderstone

This is a brief update on the progress of Pastoral Lease assessments since being appointed to Brendan Lay's old position of lead scientist within the Pastoral Program in February.

Fieldwork has now been completed for the Kingoonya and Gawler Ranges Districts. Fieldwork has been programmed to commence in the North East District and calibration of field staff will take place in mid-May. The calibration process is important to ensure that methods are being employed consistently. It is also an opportunity for field staff to share experiences and ensure that we operate as efficiently as possible.

I recently took part in the assessment of the final leases in the Gawler Ranges District and it confirmed for me how much we can learn,

not only from what our assessment sites reveal, but also what can be learned from land managers. I greatly appreciate any time given by lessees.

On one particular lease the lessee had taken the time to re-photograph sites, particularly when he noticed changes and wanted to record that for his information. These photos added so much more to the picture of change that took place at the site, from just two snapshots of site assessment in 1995 and 2009. Lessees are encouraged to help us in our understanding of the sort of seasonal changes that take place across the rangelands and a simple photo has tremendous value to us.

Almost all lease assessment reports for the Kingoonya district have now been approved by the Pastoral Board and following the setting of stock maximums, new leases will be offered. The Pastoral Board have also had an extra meeting to catch up on approvals of Gawler Ranges reports.

Thank you to those lessees who have responded with valuable comments on their reports. We are working through the responses received and there is still time to provide comments on the reports if this is something you haven't had time to do. We will soon give a personal call to those who haven't responded, just in case something has gone amiss in our communications.

If you have any questions, please contact me on (08) 8303 9752.



## Outback Asset Management

The Outback Areas Community Development Trust has engaged consultant Jeff Roorda and Associates to assist in the compilation of long-term asset management plans for assets owned and operated by the Trust. These assets include public conveniences, UHF radio repeaters, aerodromes and community waste water management systems.

The objective is to provide the Trust with an accurate picture of the whole-of-life and capital replacement costs associated with each asset. The figures derived from this research will support the case for ongoing funding to ensure the Trust has the ability to maintain its assets to an acceptable standard to service outback communities and the visitors to the region.

This information will be entered onto a database where

it can be updated regularly to ensure that the Trust continues to manage its assets responsibly and has a vision for their future sustainability.

It is expected that this initial assessment report will lead to the development of asset management plans for assets owned by Progress Associations to enable the communities to implement long-term management strategies and further support applications for financial subsidies through the Trust to implement the management plan. Long-term asset management planning and the associated strategic financial management planning are key elements to the long-term financial sustainability of the outback region.

This process will give a clearer picture of what it costs to provide local government-type services in the outback.

## National Youth Week Celebrations (...continued from front page)

A photographic competition held at Leigh Creek was an example of one of the aims of NYW – to encourage young people to showcase their talents.

A panel of three judges, including Pam Inverarity from the town's First Light Gallery, considered "creativity, composition and communication" in the strong field of entries. Town Manager Nick Cross presented three students with awards for their photos. Entries were exhibited at Liz's Café until the Easter-school holiday break.

The Leigh Creek Youth Advisory Committee, led by coordinator Nicole Pilmore, also organised an all-night games session at the town stadium and youth club which featured indoor hockey, cricket, basketball,

soccer as well as Xbox, Playstation and Sing Star. Local band Triple Barrel played at the "Hard Rock Café".

In Marree and Woomera, a tennis competition and games/movie night were organized after free barbecues. At Penong, a dinner and games evening was held, and a barbecue and games night was held at Andamooka.

Across Australia, thousands of young people aged 12-25 got involved under the slogan *Make a Move*. NYW aims to encourage young people to celebrate their contribution to their communities, to share ideas and "have their voices heard on issues of concern to them". It's a chance to attend live events, take part in competitions and have fun.

## Outback Trust Legislation

New legislation to support South Australia's outback communities, including the establishment of a new management authority, is currently before State Parliament. It is proposed that the Outback Communities Authority will replace the Outback Areas Community Development Trust, which covers 65 percent of SA and just under 1 percent of the State's population that is not covered by local councils.

The authority's jurisdiction will continue to include remote areas of the state, from Blinman, Andamooka, William Creek and Innamincka in the State's north to Penong and Fowlers Bay in

the west. The Minister for State/Local Government Relations, Gail Gago, says the *Outback Communities (Administration and Management) Bill 2009* is the result of extensive consultation with outback communities. She also added that the new structure will promote a closer working relationship between progress associations, their communities and the new Outback Communities Authority and more effective provision of infrastructure, service planning and community management.



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## Field Naturalists Search Outback Salt Lakes

Reece Pedler

A group of environmental enthusiasts from Roxby Downs has recently travelled to the north of the state in search of the Lake Eyre Dragon - one of South Australia's iconic, but little known reptiles. The Outback Field Naturalists have been successful in finding the species on Lake Callabonna and Lake Frome, representing some of the first recordings of the species in many years.

As its name suggests, the Lake Eyre Dragon is a known inhabitant of Lake Eyre, where it lives on the barren surface of the dry lake; however, this unique reptile has also been historically recorded on Lake Torrens, Lake Callabonna and Lake Frome.

The dry surface of these salt lakes is one of the most inhospitable environments imaginable, with blistering summer temperatures, unrelenting winds spraying grains of sand, and enough salt to desiccate just about any living creature. Amazingly the dragons are able to survive in this environment, with several key adaptations including a strong tolerance of heat, the ability to burrow into the moist sediment beneath the lake crust, tiny slit-like nostrils and serrated eyelids to keep out windblown sand. They also are able to source all their water requirements from their food, which consists mainly of ants and other insects and debris blown out across the lake surface.

Salt lakes are difficult places to live when dry, but unfortunately for the dragons, they also occasionally fill with water. This natural event triggers an explosion of new life, but puts the Lake Eyre Dragons under threat of drowning or being picked off by birds that move into the area, including large numbers of Silver Gulls which arrive from coastal regions.

able to win some grant funding from the Field Naturalists Society of SA and in-kind support from the SA Arid Lands NRM Board, which enabled them to extend searches further afield to include Lake Callabonna and Lake Frome, to the north-east of the Flinders Ranges.

Around 15 volunteers from the Outback Field Naturalists and SA



Despite being a fascinating species with a remarkably restricted habitat, there has been surprisingly little study of this species in the wild. The last record of the dragons on lakes other than Lake Eyre were many years ago, with no records (or searches) for the species on Lake Frome in over 40 years.



After some initial success finding the species in old haunts on Lake Torrens, the newly reformed Outback Field Naturalist group has been keen to try and find out more about the species and whether they persist on other remote salt lakes. The group was

Herpetology Groups searched sites on the Lake Callabonna and Lake Frome over a weekend in early April. Despite the conditions being particularly cold and windy for the dragons, the group was again successful, finding the species on Lake Callabonna as well as signs of their presence at other sites on the east side of Lake Frome. This represents the first recorded evidence of the species on this lake in several decades. The group were pleased with this outcome, but hope to revisit again during warmer conditions in order to get some further captures. Special thanks to the Sheehan and Maroney families of Moolawatana and Woollana Stations respectively, for their support of the surveys.

## Feral Goats Program Kicks Off

(...continued from front page)

Feral goats contribute to total grazing pressure, reducing feed available for livestock and altering vegetation species composition. They foul waterholes, which can be critical for native fauna survival during dry times.

Feral goats are declared animals under the *Natural Resources Management Act, 2004* and the SAAL NRM Board has developed a framework for their ongoing management that includes partnerships and policy changes needed to achieve significant and sustained low goat numbers.

Vegetation condition monitoring is being developed that will enable rapid recognition of the impacts of feral goats. This 'indicator' will assist landholders and other decision makers to evaluate high priority zones and triggers for control.

The project provides an opportunity for interested landholders to be assisted in addressing the impact of feral goats towards total grazing pressure. **Increased vegetation cover equals improved production for pastoral lands.**

## Two Free Land Management Sessions for Marla-Oodnadatta

Janet Walton

The first session will coincide with the next Marla-Oodnadatta NRM Group meeting, scheduled for **May 26 in Oodnadatta**. A special guest speaker, Mr. Ben Forsyth, has been invited to share his experience of sustainable land management practices in the Murchison Gascoyne regions of WA. The session is free to everyone who is interested.

Mr Forsyth is one of only 16 Australians to receive the 2007 Nuffield Scholarship.

He has used this scholarship (sponsored by the Sidney Myer Fund) to explore strategies that will ensure an ecologically sustainable future for the arid pastoral zone of inland Western Australia.

He has also been working to investigate cattle breeds that will help maximize returns on that land. This includes the environmental tolerance and market potential of heat adapted Bos taurus and composite cattle breeds.

Mr Forsyth is a partner of Beefwood Pastoral Company, a family operation dedicated to sustainable beef production on stations spread over almost 800,000 hectares in Western Australia's East and west Gascoyne, and in the north Midlands near Eneabba.

In his roles of production manager and environmental manager his concern is focused on "erosion degradation, pasture decline and the general legacy management of our forebears". He is, "committed to finding better ecological management tools to repair this area, and to running the most suitable stock on repaired pastures."

Mr Forsyth attended the recent Australian rangelands conference in Charters Towers and is involved with the Ecosystem Management Understanding (EMU) program delivered in the Murchison Gascoyne catchment.

Participants can expect the following from the afternoon session:

- A greater understanding of sustainable land management practises being utilised and adopted in arid areas in other states.
- A greater understanding of managing pastoral property with a land system function approach

rather than an isolated property or paddock management approach.

- A greater understanding of the changes occurring in the environment and how to best manage these changes.

For more information contact Janet Walton 08 8672 3648.

**Grass with Class: 12 June, Oodnadatta.** The second session is planned for June and is titled "Grass With Class".

Guest speakers will include Dr. Margaret Friedel (CSIRO), Dick Cadzow (NT Pastoralist and Landcare member), San Jolly (Livestock Productive Nutrition Consultant), and Matt Buchanan (Greening Australia NT – Katherine nursery).

The day will provide information on how to collect and establish native grasses in an arid environment; the nutritional value of native grasses and saltbushes; and the nutritional requirements of livestock. Dick Cadzow from Mt. Riddock Station in the Northern Territory will lead a session on land reclamation and sustainable pastoral production.

Both information sessions are free. for more information and bookings please contact Janet Walton 08 8672 3648 [janet.walton@saalnrm.sa.gov.au](mailto:janet.walton@saalnrm.sa.gov.au).

## Hello

The board is delighted to welcome Kurt Tschirner to the position of Senior Natural Resource Management Officer, based in Port Augusta.

His principle role will be delivering the Board's Pest Management and Rangelands Rehabilitation Project, which includes maintaining and developing community awareness and participation in natural resources management.

Kurt's family recently moved to SA from WA where he managed

a conservation reserve for Bush Heritage Australia in the rangelands of the mid-west. Major work programs included



**Kurt Tschirner**

fire management, fox and feral goat control. Prior to this he was with the NT Parks and Wildlife Service for 21 years doing park management and participating in regional pest plant and animal

control programs in a variety of locations throughout the NT. The Board welcomes Kurt to the team.

## Goodbye

This month, the SAAL NRM Board bids goodbye to two retiring Board members, Maree Morton, from Innamincka Station and Randall Crozier from Anna Creek Station.

Maree was an inaugural member of the SAAL Board and has been a long serving and passionate contributor to the Board. Her experience of pastoral management, community involvement, and knowledge of water and biodiversity issues, pest weeds and animals has made her an invaluable member - her input will be missed.

Regrettably, Randall Crozier also leaves us

to pursue his work commitments interstate. Randall has been a Board member for the past year, his knowledge of the pastoral industry and community attitudes has been of great value to the Board, as has his advice about the challenges of pastoral land management during drought. He has been an invaluable member of the SAAL Board who will also be missed.

Both Maree and Randall were active and dedicated Board members, always ready to contribute to the many discussions and decisions that the Board has made. The Board wishes them every success in the future.



## Government of South Australia

South Australian Arid Lands Natural Resources Management Board

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## Outback people and places (...continued from back page)

Beetaloo Valley (which was later purchased in 1967). Ian describes his role with these properties as that of 'a bit of a dogsbody'. This may be arguable and I think a little self-deprecating but the permanence of his work focus on first Hilpara and then Uno (purchased in 1968) seems to have come with his marriage to Mary, the rationalisation of holdings and the arrival of family.

Whatever, Ian and Mary's first year north was at Hilpara, a property for which Ian holds an obvious affection. The family had already established a registered Poll Hereford stud there with 50 breeding cows and later in 1971 cleared some more land. Like a lot of others at that time they had also unsuccessfully sought a wheat quota.

In 1971, following an approach from a Japanese company about oilseed shipments, Ian and a friend from Georgetown convened a meeting

of potential Canola growers at Gladstone in the Mid-North, which in turn led to an approach from the then United Farmers and Graziers of SA (later to become the SA Farmers Federation) and he became the first Executive Field Officer of that organisation's Oil Seed Section.

But his focus returned to pastoralism and Uno in particular and the life and opportunities that living in the more accessible end of the Gawler Ranges offered. From 1975 to 1985 he and Mary concentrated on the station and it was from there that all three of their children were born.

The pastoral interests were relinquished in 1985 and the family moved down to the City where from 1987 onward Ian managed a flower export company moving in 1992 to take up a retail gourmet butcher shop when the 1990 national airline strike forced the closure of the flower export operation. The butcher shop

was along the O'Connell Street hub in North Adelaide and Ian remembers 'The Oaks' Gourmet Butchery as involving seven days a week and effectively 12 hours every day.

He retired from the butchering business in 2002 and now takes on part time and full time casual work as a proud, self-funded member of 'greying Australia'. Ian was a good oarsman at Scotch College and although he doesn't do it now, he coached rowing from 1986 to 1992 at Prince Alfred College and held a Level 1 Coaching Certificate in that sport.

Ian and Mary now live at Parkside in the City, Mary keeping herself busy as a retail manager at a fashion and home ware outlet. And they both keep as close an eye as they can on their four grandchildren.



INVESTING IN THE OUTBACK

Roads to Recovery Program Continues

The Australian Government recently announced the extension of the Roads to Recovery Program for July 2009 – June 2014, with \$15.4m funding being provided. This is a huge opportunity for the outback and unincorporated areas of South Australia.

The Department for Transport, Energy and Infrastructure (DTEI) manages the funding on behalf

of the Australian Government.

The Roads to Recovery Program has been providing funding to DTEI since 2001, with a total of \$17.5m being provided until the end of the 2008/09 financial year.

Some of the projects that have been undertaken to date include:

- Sealing of town streets in Penong, Fowlers Bay, Yunta, Copley, Marree, Lyndhurst and Marla (including the road to the airstrip)

- Resheeting works in Mannahill and Dillons Highway
- Sealing of Parachilna main street and improving the Parachilna Gorge and Leigh Creek to Hawker Road intersection
- Sealing of 4.5km of Blinman to Wilpena Road
- Upgrading of delineation, signing and grids in several areas
- Rehabilitation of Point Sinclair Road at Penong
- Sealed bypass of Yalata township
- Resheeting 4km of the access road into Mintabie.



Grid Replacement in Eastern Districts

DTEI will continue to work with the Outback Areas Community Development Trust and Progress Associations on the program of works for this next round of funding.

DTEI reports to and seeks approval from the Australian Government on a regular basis regarding works that have and are scheduled to be undertaken.

Nation Building Program

Nation Building is an Australian Government program which provides a planning framework and funding for investment in land transport infrastructure. It is a jointly funded program on a 50/50 basis between the Australian and State Governments.



Sealing the Strzelecki Track

The Nation Building Program supports land transport projects that support growth of regional industry, respond to structural change or strengthen local, social and economic opportunities.

The Strzelecki Track upgrade is one of the projects that DTEI received funding for under the above program and includes:

- Constructing and sealing 6 sections of the Track, each between 5-7km in length, which will significantly reduce the risks associated with vehicles overtaking slower heavy vehicles
- Upgrading and constructing rest areas and truck parking bays – providing a total of 6 rest areas
- Resheeting four sections of road with a total length

- of 54km
- Upgrading and stabilising 3 major floodways.

The project is due for completion by the end of June 2010, at a total cost of \$13.73m.



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[www.ruralsolutions.sa.gov.au](http://www.ruralsolutions.sa.gov.au)

## The Collection of Pastoral Tools, Information and Experiences is Now Available

The final product from the project known as "Improving Rangeland Sustainability", funded by the Australian Government and managed by Rangelands NRM, Western Australia is now available.

The folder containing this unique collection of highly relevant materials will be sent out to project participants but is also available to others at the cost of postage.

The aim of the project which ran in SA over the last two and a half years, aimed to contribute to improved ecological condition; productivity and profitability in Australia's southern rangelands. This was to be achieved through sustainable livestock production systems and by building capacity within the owners and managers of pastoral enterprises.

There was a focus on engaging

with a range of interest groups including pastoralists, stock and station agents, pastoral consultants and Natural Resources Management Boards.

Through information gained from a survey and meeting with groups, priorities and potential projects were determined. Applications were accepted from groups for projects with the overriding premise being "achievable through sustainable grazing management without compromising livelihoods".

Water was identified as an important and limiting factor. Vegetation management as a source of animal nutrition but also for maintaining rangeland biodiversity was also frequently identified.



Merri Tothill with  
her copy

Thus many of the projects in SA are based on understanding and managing water and vegetation for production outcomes with the added dimension of maintaining biodiversity. However,

the impact of foxes on production and biodiversity as feral predators of both lambs and native animals has been tackled through a research project, designed to trial different fox control methods.

The outcomes of all of these projects are presented as case studies in the folder, together with the excellent tools developed in WA, to use as a guide to decision making.

If you haven't received a copy in the next few weeks, please contact our office.

## Cane Toads and South Australia

Ben Shepherd

There are 2 key pathways for cane toads entering South Australia: natural dispersal along rivers (including arid rivers) and concealed within vehicles and freight. Cane toads are present in the upper catchments of the Lake Eyre Basin (LEB) and well established around Longreach. The arid rivers of the LEB, notably the Thompson and Cooper Creek which pass through Longreach and into the north east of South Australia, are high risk pathways for the natural dispersal of cane toads into the State. This poses a particular threat to Coongie Lakes and other waterholes of the Cooper Creek.

Though the persistence and impact of cane toads in arid river systems is not known, their establishment around Longreach and movement down the Thompson and Cooper Creek into South Australia demonstrates their ability to survive in arid Australia.

South Australia is currently cane toad free, but single cane toads have popped up in urban areas around Adelaide on a few occasions. None of these resulted in established populations. So, how did they get there? Evidence shows that cane toads are effective hitchhikers and they have been moved hundreds of kilometres on vehicles, machinery, equipment, freight, camping gear, pallets, pot plants and caravans.

Early detection of cane toads in South Australia will be an important part of keeping South Australia cane toad free. People are encouraged to be aware of the cane toad risk, especially when travelling from cane toad infested areas back into South Australia. People visiting waterholes along the Cooper Creek are encouraged to keep an eye out for these invaders and report any suspected cane toads to their local NRM board.

## Survey Results: Bovine Genital Campylobacteriosis (Vibriosis)

In 2006 PIRSA surveyed 200 bulls from 121 South Australian properties located across the State with the support of T&R Pastoral Pty Ltd abattoirs and Australian Quarantine Inspection Service (AQIS). Campylobacter was detected in 32.5 percent of the bulls, and 39 percent of originating properties. As a result of this survey it was suggested that approximately a third of SA cattle properties may be experiencing some reproductive losses due to this bacterium. The condition involves both beef and dairy properties and affects intensive, semi-intensive and extensive production systems.

### What is it?

Bovine Genital Campylobacteriosis, previously called Vibriosis is a venereal disease of cattle caused by the bacterium Campylobacter fetus subspecies venerealis. Campylobacteriosis is a major infectious cause of infertility in cattle herds. This is seen as poor conception (sometimes below 50 percent), increased returns to service, reduced calving rates, permanent infertility (up to 11 percent of infected females) and sporadic abortions (5 to 20 percent) in cows and heifers.

### Mode of Transmission

This disease is spread by infected bulls during service or through poor instrumentation hygiene during an artificial insemination programme.

A bull acquires the disease by mating with an infected cow. Once infected, a bull remains a carrier of the condition.

### Diagnosis



Samples collected from the slaughter bulls were tested by a Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) method. This diagnostic technique was perfected by the Department of Primary Industries (Queensland) with the assistance of Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA) funding. The PCR technique is highly sensitive and a significant advance upon past diagnostic procedures. Care needs to be taken with the interpretation of positive Campylobacter PCR findings in the absence of herd infertility as the presence of PCR positive cattle may not indicate the active presence of disease.

### Prevention

Campylobacteriosis is a vaccine preventable disease, and may be diagnosed after a thorough investigation of the herd and breeding records. After campylobacteriosis is diagnosed in a cattle enterprise the adoption of a property-specific vaccination represents the best

way forward. Some potential campylobacteriosis vaccination options are now discussed.

### Management Program for a Chronically Infected herd

- Join heifers in a separate mob and use a maiden bull.
- Cull dry cows as some of these will be carriers of the Campylobacter organism.
- Immunise all heifers and bulls with Vibrio vaccine (VibroVax) – this strategy protects animals in subsequent years.

### Vaccine Dose Rates

#### BULLS

1. All bulls should be given two 5ml doses 4 to 6 weeks apart. The second vaccination should be administered about 6 weeks before joining.
2. Thereafter an annual dose of 5ml per year, 6 weeks before joining.

#### HEIFERS (less than 18 months of age)

1. All heifers should be given two 5ml doses 4 to 6 weeks apart. The second vaccination should be administered about 6 weeks before joining.
2. Thereafter, an annual dose of 2ml per year, 6 weeks before joining or a single dose of 5 ml every two years.

For more Information on any of the above please contact Dr Peter Nosworthy, PIRSA Veterinary officer, (08) 8762 9140.

## DEH 2009 Aerial Kangaroo Survey

Watch out for low flying aircraft, the annual Aerial Kangaroo Survey of SA is scheduled to take place from 6-20 July, depending on weather conditions.

Also underway is the 2009 sustainable commercial

kangaroo harvest. Applications for Commercial Kangaroo Harvest Permits at [www.parks.sa.gov.au/fauna\\_permits/index.htm](http://www.parks.sa.gov.au/fauna_permits/index.htm) or contact the DEH office, 9 Mackay Street, Port Augusta, (08) 8648 5318

## Outback people and places

### IAN MOULD: Keeping Grazing Close to Goyder's Line

By Leith Yelland

As a consequence of largely inherited circumstances and family property dispersion, Ian Mould's experience with the management of pastoral country, and some northern cropping land, very closely followed his grandfather, Richard Mould's dictum that if you wanted to be a pastoralist you should operate as close as possible to Goyder's Line.

The family patriarch's logical corollary was also that if you wanted to farm successfully you did so as far away from Goyder's Line as possible.

These general approaches were also followed by Ian's father, Lincoln Mould, and as a result when Ian left Uno Station, west of Iron Knob, and moved to Adelaide in 1985, he had worked or lived on five holdings in the Port Augusta, northern agricultural and eastern Gawler Ranges pastoral district. He and his wife Mary's longest and best known pastoral association was with Uno. They were there from 1968 to 1985 after spending their first married year at Hilpara, a 2600-acre Poll Hereford stud and cropping block in the Beetaloo Valley.

Ian is at pains to stress that Mary "adapted beautifully" to bush life while also noting that this outcome was not originally predicted by his father. I mention this now because with the advantage of slow hindsight it seems to me now that the profiles that have appeared in 'Across the Outback' have arguably not placed enough emphasis on the important and often pivotal roles that wives and partners have played in the life and management of the pastoral runs of the north.

Married in 1967 Ian and Mary had three children – Tiffany, Henry and Hamish – born between 1968 and 1973; all of whom took their primary education by correspondence and 'school of the air' under the supervision of their mother at Uno. The children have carved professional and commercial niches for themselves away from farming and pastoralism. Tiffany is a physician in Perth and took her medical degree after secondary schooling at Seymour College. She is believed to be the only primary school correspondence 'graduate' in South Australia practicing medicine.



The family at Uno in 1984; from left: Mary, Tiffany, James, Henry and Ian

Their older son Henry was the co-proprietor of a city hotel and many of the younger station hands and jackeroos will remember Henry as the genial 'mine-host' of the Havelock Hotel in Hutt Street, Adelaide. Younger son Hamish, who like Henry did his secondary education at Prince Alfred College, is a well-regarded accountant and auditor.

These generational outcomes partially stem from a mother who, as

Mary Lalor, had never lived outside Victor Harbour before her marriage and who Ian claims hadn't ventured much further north than Burra.

Ian James Mould himself was born at Port Augusta in late January 1938. He was to be the middle child of five born to Oliver Lincoln and Daphne Mould, who at the time of Ian's birth lived at Emu Downs Station – then part of Lincoln Gap.

One of Ian's brothers was killed in an accident when he was two and a half years of age. His other brother Richard is now retired and living at McLaren Vale. Ian's two sisters are Pam Shannon and Margot Williams.

Ian was effectively brought up and primary schooled while the family was at Copynga Station on the outskirts of Port Augusta. Copynga included the land now occupied by the Port Augusta Airport and abutted the Port Augusta 'common', where among other travelling stock, cameleers parked their mail and transport camels. From 1943 to 1949 Ian used to walk to school at the Port Augusta West Primary School across some substantial sandhills, which he recalls used to provide camping opportunities for a number of itinerant workers, swaggies and "gypsies".

In 1950 Ian was sent south to board at Scotch College from where he matriculated in 1954 and came 'home' to work between Wartaka Station in the Gawler Ranges (which the family had purchased in 1946), Lincoln Park (which the family purchased in 1949 from the McBride family interests) and Hilpara in the (...continued on page 8)