

**Grassland
Society**
of Southern
Australia Inc

57th ANNUAL CONFERENCE

READY, SET,

GROW!

Wednesday 31 August to Thursday 1 September 2016
Hamilton Showgrounds, Shakespeare Street, Hamilton VIC 3300

Welcome!

The 2016 Grassland Society Conference has been designed to provide quality information to producers on the important pillars of grassland agriculture - soils, pasture systems, economics & risk management and new technologies. The committee has put a strong focus on not only providing quality speakers but also delivering information that producers can utilise to make a difference to their farm business.

Opening the conference is Dr Doug Edmeades from New Zealand, who will present on separating fact from fiction in regards to soils and our management of soils. The session will also address phosphorus curve, nitrogen usage and strategies for managing wet areas.

The pasture systems segment will focus on the cost of pasture production and efficient pasture utilisation. Phil White, a local consultant, will do a joint presentation with Tania Luckin (2016 Dairy Australia Business Managers of the Year) on understanding the cost of pasture, providing examples of how Tania and her husband Stephen have changed their pasture production system to improve the profit of their dairy business at Mt Clay, Heywood. Laurie Close from Apsley will provide us with a producer's perspective on changing farming practices to better utilise and grow grass.

In the afternoon we will tour Jigsaw Farms north of Hamilton, where Mark Wootton and his team will give an insight into the business and the changes they have made to assist in risk management, including pasture production, grazing systems and agroforestry. We will also visit the Agriculture Victoria Research Station south of Hamilton (Former PVI) where we will visit multiple research

sites/projects that include Lucerne for Lamb, the automated feed intake facility - where sheep are fed a range of different forages and the methane levels and feed efficiencies are recorded - as well as new technologies in pasture breeding.

The evening dinner will feature the best of Western Victoria's local wines and food, and guest speaker Rob McGavin (Boundary Bend Olives, Cobram Estate and Poligolet, Derrinallum) will provide us with an insight into his diverse business interests and the opportunities he sees for agriculture going forward.

Following breakfast on day two the Mac Troup Oration will be delivered by Tom Silcock (Mountain Dam Merinos) a local woolgrower and industry leader who will provide us with an insight into challenges and opportunities we might face in the future.

Dr Richard Eckard will address climate adoption and mitigation, and Cam Nicholson will speak on strategies and opportunities to combat a variable climate. Johnathon Tocker will also present his PhD on Southwest Farm Economics.

The final segment will focus on new technologies where Dr Dave Lamb, Hannah Marriot and Elizabeth Morse-McNab will provide us with an understanding of tools such as Satellite Moisture Mapping, EID and Virtual Fencing to improve our farm management systems and make our businesses more efficient and profitable long term.

We look forward to seeing you in Hamilton!

Ben Young, Convenor

Registration fees

Early bird prices – until 31 July 2016				
	GSSA Member	Non-Member	Members Associate*	Student
Full registration – includes all sessions, bus tour, dinner (Wed), breakfast (Thurs), conference satchel, printed conference proceedings	\$310.00	\$395.00	\$250.00	\$160.00
Wednesday only – includes Wednesday sessions, bus tour, dinner, conference satchel, printed conference proceedings	\$210.00	\$295.00	\$160.00	\$110.00
Thursday only – includes Thursday sessions, breakfast, conference satchel, printed conference proceedings	\$140.00	\$195.00	\$120.00	\$80.00
Additional dinner ticket	\$85.00	\$85.00	\$85.00	\$85.00
Standard prices – from 1 August 2016				
Full registration – includes all sessions, bus tour, dinner (Wed), breakfast (Thurs), conference satchel, printed conference proceedings	\$360.00	\$445.00	\$300.00	\$210.00
Wednesday only – includes Wednesday sessions, bus tour, dinner, conference satchel, printed conference proceedings	\$260.00	\$345.00	\$200.00	\$160.00
Thursday only – includes Thursday sessions, breakfast, conference satchel, printed conference proceedings	\$160.00	\$245.00	\$140.00	\$110.00
Additional dinner ticket	\$95.00	\$95.00	\$95.00	\$95.00

NB: All non-member prices include membership for 2016/17 year, with emailed newsletters | * Does not include Conference Proceedings
Registration can be made online, with payment by credit card, cheque or EFT | All prices include GST

Program

Wednesday 31 August 2016		
8.30am	Welcome & Introduction	
	Speaker	Topic
Session 1: Soils		
8.45am	Dr Doug Edmeades Managing Director, AgKnowledge, New Zealand	Separating fact from fiction
	Malcolm McCaskill	Phosphorus curve and economics
	Graham Ward	Managing wet areas
	Bruce Lewis (producer)	Managing wet areas
10.35am	Morning tea	
Session 2: Pasture Systems		
11.05am	Tania Luckin & Phil White	How much does pasture cost? Filling the gap
	Meredith Mitchell	Lucerne for lamb
	Laurie Close	Pasture systems
12.45pm	Bus tour departs – lunch on bus	
	Bus tour - includes visits to DPI and to Mark Wootton and Eva Kantor's Jigsaw Farms	
5.30pm	Bus tour returns	
6.30pm	Conference dinner Guest speaker Rob McGavin, Cobram Estate	
Thursday 1 September 2016		
7.30am	Breakfast, including GSSA Annual General Meeting at 8.15am	
9.00am	Mac Troup Memorial Oration – Tom Silcock, Mountain Dam Merino Stud	
Session 3: Economics & Risk Management		
9.30am	Johnathon Tocker	PhD on SouthWest farm economics
10.15am	Morning Tea	
10.45am	Cam Nicholson	Risk management strategies for grazing enterprises to combat the variability of season
	Richard Eckard	Climate adaption and mitigation in agriculture systems
	Mark Wootton	Jigsaw Farms
12.30pm	Lunch	
Session 4: New Technologies		
1.30pm	Prof David Lamb, UNE	SMARTFarm
	Elizabeth Morse-McNab	HRZ Satellite moisture mapping and subsoil moisture probes
	Hannah Marriott, Nuffield Scholar	EID Value Chains
3.00pm	Afternoon Tea & Close	

Registration Form

Title: _____

Surname: _____ First Name: _____

Postal Address: _____

Suburb/Town: _____ State: _____ Post Code: _____

Mobile: _____ Email: _____

Organisation or Property Name: _____

Register online at www.grasslands.org.au



OR

Payment Options

Credit card: complete the details below and post to:
PO Box 8006,
Carrum Downs, Victoria, 3201

Cheques are to be made payable to:
Grassland Society of
Southern Australia Inc.

Direct Debit to the Grassland Society of Southern Australia:
BSB: 633000
Account No: 143187599

Card Number	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>		
Name on Card	<input type="text"/>												
Expiry Date	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	/	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>								
Signature	<input type="text"/>								Amount \$	<input type="text"/>			

A tax invoice will be issued by email

Please see the www.grasslands.org.au website for details on Cancellations, Amendments and the Disclaimer and Liability policy.

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