

Conference contact: Graeme Hand, Stipa CEO
Ph 0418 532130 or email graeme.hand@bigpond.com

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Native Grasses Association Inc.

7th National Native Grasslands Conference



**Managing Native Grasslands for Soil and
Animal Health**

Holbrook Town Hall,
Holbrook, NSW, Australia
9th and 10th November 2011

Program

Welcome Reception

**5.30pm Holbrook Town Hall
Drinks and Canapés**

Day 1. Wednesday 9th November 2011

7.45am to 8.15am **Registration and coffee**

8.15am to 8.30am **Conference welcome**

8.30am to 10.00am **Plenary session**

Dr Fred Provenza, Professor, Emeritus Utah State University, USA.

Dr Provenza is a leading authority on animal feeding behaviour and management. He has co-authored over 230 scientific peer reviewed papers and spoken at numerous international conferences. He has also conducted over 41 workshops for scientists and land managers in 6 different countries including the USA and Australia. He established the consortium BEHAVE (Behavioural Education for Human, Animal, Vegetation and Ecosystem Management) in 2001.

- Animal Nutritional Wisdom and Feeding Behaviour—how this impacts on human health.

10.00am to 10.30am **Morning Tea**

10.30am to 12.00pm **Plenary Session**

Dr Dean Revell, Principal Research Scientist, CSIRO WA.

- The Australian perspective

Bruce Maynard, Farmer Narromine NSW.

- Animal Handling/Management

12.00 to 1.00pm **Lunch**

1.00pm to 5.30pm **Field tours**

Field tours to

- **Michael and Anna Coughlan** and family run a large scale beef grazing property east of Holbrook. This business is highly profitable (cost of production <\$0.40/kg) while at the same time increasing land and soil health. Michael will speak on the key design factors that make this business a success while promoting healthy functioning native grasslands.
- **Bill and Joy Wearn** and family run several large scale grazing properties with a focus on increasing biodiversity and land regeneration. This site has examples of land at several stages of recovery based on when purchased. There is also an example of great forbs and lilies which should be in full bloom in November

7.00pm **Conference Dinner**

Guest speaker—Simon Gould, Soils for life Program

Day 2. Thursday 10th November 2011

8.15am to 8.30am **Day 1 wrap up**

8.30am to 10.00am **Soil Health (Plenary session)**

Walter Jehne, Healthy Soils Australia

- Overview of the importance of grasslands to soil health
- Declan McDonald, DPI Victoria
- Soils Alive! Understanding and managing soil biology

10.00am to 10.30am **Morning Tea**

10.30am to 12.00pm **Pasture, Cropping and Livestock (Concurrent workshops to be nominated at registration)**

- Workshop 1** Colin Seis, Farmer and grazier “Winona” Gulgong NSW
- Building natural capital and biological resilience with low inputs
- Nathan Heath, Murray CMA
- Overview of soil sequestration of carbon

- Workshop 2** Graham Strong, Grazier “Arcadia” Narrandera NSW
- Cultural change for native grasses
- Jim Virgona, Charles Sturt University
- Grazing strategies to improve native components in degraded situations

12.00pm to 1.00pm **Lunch**

1.00pm to 2.30pm **The role of animals in Native pasture composition and condition. (Concurrent workshops to be nominated at registration)**

- Workshop 3** Dr Magali Wright, NRM South, Tasmania
- The impact of recovery period on landscape function and native grass regeneration
- Peter Ampt, Sydney University
- Communities in Landscapes Project results

- Workshop 4** Graeme Hand, CEO Stipa
- Stipa project results and “triggers” for management
- Rebecca Cross, Sydney University
- Experience of Innovators

2.30pm to 3.00pm **Afternoon Tea**

3.00pm to 4.30pm **Healthy People (Plenary Session)**

Mark Gardner, Dubbo NSW

- Designing regenerative businesses for profit and people
- Dr Fred Provenza
- Links between land and health

4.30pm to 5.00pm **Conference wrap up and close**