Newsletter

Number 42

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Produced by Xanthe White

Stipa

Native Grasses Association Inc

Stipa On-Farm Project Series workshop 3, Quambone Group: Pasture Cropping and No Kill Cropping presented by Angus Maurice held at Matt and Ian McKenzie's property, Coonamble.

www.stipa.com.au

Central West catchment management authority

Together We're Making a Difference LACHLAN CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry National Landcare Program

VANGUARD BUSINESS SERVICES

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STIPA is not an acronym. The association was named after the *Stipa* genus of grasses, now *Austrostipa*. One of the *Stipas* is commonly known as spear grass. At its inception in 1997, the association aimed to spearhead a change in attitude to native grasses. As that change is occurring, Stipa continues to promote the use of native grasses to achieve profit from a healthy landscape.

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This Newsletter was produced with assistance from Karen Pearce, Bloom Communication.
www.bloomcommunication.com.au

From the Chair

Annabel Walsh

Welcome to another edition of the Stipa newsletter. Since the last edition there has been a dramatic change in Australian and world economics. This factor highlights the importance that our research and farming practices have to be appropriate and within the boundaries of economic reality if we are to expect any uptake from the farming community.

How many times do we hear from agency people, press and community, are other farmers starting to recognize the values we can see in the roll native grasses play in our grazing and cropping systems? There is a perception that we operate outside economic reality and this is something that we have to change.

The recent field day at Mosely's between Cobar and Hillston where 58 attended, clearly demonstrated that we can operate within economic reality and get the runs on the board. The Moselys have achieved fantastic results using both pasture cropping tools and grazing systems in combination to increase production, soil health and profit where so many have struggled to achieve long term management of woody weeds. Andrew, on behalf of Stipa I would like to thank you and Megan for your tenacity and putting that lateral thinking into practice, getting the results in the paddock and then hosting a field day.

The Stipa committee met in Dubbo during April. We discussed the changing function that Stipa will need to play out to promote the importance of native grasses and working with the natural system. Stipa started out running native grass identification training days and we still see this as an important role. But equally we see that the members of the organisation that have implemented innovative systems to increase soil function and health, plant diversity and vigour need to be encouraged to continue to improve and lead the way.

Dr Phillip Pardey, an agricultural economist at Minnesota University, is working with the HarvestChoice project that is funded through the Bill and Belinda Gates Foundation to develop frameworks to make farming more productive and profitable, the project is orientated toward grain production but the Gates Foundation has indicated that phase two should also focus on livestock production. It is an organisation like this that Stipa should have ways of feeding into and receiving information.

And some financial help would not go astray.

We also discussed at the Dubbo meeting to work more closely with other societies e.g. ARS (Australian Rangeland Society). Next year the ARS will hold their biannual conference in Bourke and it was decided that Stipa would convene the next Stipa conference in 2011.

Many thanks to Graeme and Xanthe for bringing me up to speed with the workings of Stipa. Welcome to our new member on the committee Hillary Crawford. The committee and I encourage any suggestions or feedback to improve your society. Stipa email addresses are located on page 2.

From the CEO

Graeme Hand

In this report :

- **Completion of the On Farm project funded by Central West CMA**
- **Mosley's, Cobar field day**
- **Stipa Project in mid-north of South Australia**

The On Farm Project series has just been completed. This project, funded by the Central West CMA, was extremely successful with the participating farmers wanting the projects to continue and feedback showing very high ratings for satisfaction. Some of the key results were trialling of practices that Stipa recommends to regenerate native grasses and for many farmers the opportunity to present their project to a group. We will include results achieved by the participating farmers in future newsletters. I would like to thank Xanthe for her hard work in managing this project.

The field day at the Mosely's, near Cobar was a great success (even though it started a bit late as I managed to get two carloads lost). Many participants were amazed at the focus and achievements of the three generations of Moselys in regenerating large areas of native grasslands. It was evident that this regeneration has had multiple benefits for profit, biodiversity and enjoyment of farming. An exciting development was that rough calculations showed that this regeneration is also capturing 10 times as much CO_2 equivalent as soil carbon as what is being emitted by the grazing animals, diesel and electricity usage. We believe that is it only a matter of time until mainstream science catches up with what many farmers already know - regenerative agriculture is a major part of the solution for restoring climate stability.

The project in the in the mid-north of South Australia will kick off in the middle of July. This project, "Enabling and supporting landholders to adopt Best Management Grazing on native grasslands in the Northern and Yorke District", will be designed by the farmer participants and will be loosely based on the On Farm Project series run in the Central West. Overall the project will aim to promote broad scale regeneration of native grasslands through management practices, trial sites and, if possible, areas run as reference sites with a high focus on regeneration. This project is being developed and managed by Anne Brown and Millie Nichols who have been long term supporters of Stipa.

Confusion over the *Paspalidium* species called Warrego

Colin Seis

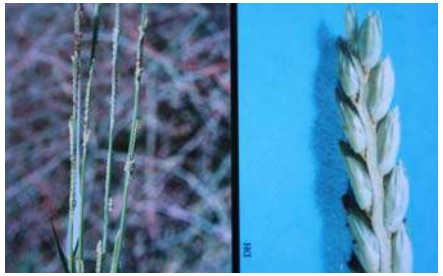
Over the last few years there has been considerable confusion about Warrego Summer Grass and the *Paspalidium* species called Warrego.

There are over 20 native *Paspalidium* species in Australia and many are incorrectly called warrego grass or warrego summer grass.

All of the *Paspalidium* are C4 summer growing species and their distribution extends from tropical to temperate regions across Australia.

Most of the *Paspalidium* species are very palatable to stock and are generally regarded as very high quality stock feed.

Some of the better known *Paspalidium* species are:



Paspalidium jubiflorum

Could be regarded as the true warrego summer grass.

It grows from 30-120 cm high and is usually found on heavy clay soil and along rivers, creeks and ephemeral creek beds.

Paspalidium jubiflorum is distributed widely, having been identified in all states except Tasmania.

Paspalidium jubiflorum
Warrego summer grass
(left and above)

Paspalidium constrictum

Box grass. Grows to 50-60 cm high.

Box grass grows on sandy loam and red clay loam soils in a wide variety of vegetation communities. Box grass is very common around the Central West of NSW and is so named because it is often seen under the canopy of eucalypts such as bimble box.

Paspalidium constrictum is found in all states except Tasmania.

Paspalidium distans

Grows in eastern Australia from NSW, eastern Queensland and Victoria, on lighter soil types to *P. constrictum* and *P. jubiflorum.* It grows to a height of 50-60 cm on granite and sandy loam soil types. Although not as common as *P. constrictum* and *P. jubiflorum* it is regarded as very good stock feed.

These three species are being harvested and seed is available but it is important to understand that Warrego isn't always Warrego and the species should be identified because of different areas and soil types where they are more suitable to be established.

There are some other native grass species that are often confused with the *Paspalidium* species.

Two of these are Arm grass millet (*Brachiaria miliiformis*) and early spring grass or cup grass (*Eriochloa australiensis*).

Photos courtesy of: The Glove Box Guide to Plants of the NSW Rangelands, Xanthe White, Plantnet—NSW Flora online.

Paspalidium constrictum—Box grass

Paspalidium distans

Grasslands at Cobar

Sue Rahilly

The prospect of seeing high quality native grass pasture at Cobar attracted over 50 Stipa members, including one from Western Australia, and a contingent of Western CMA staff to Megan and Andrew Mosely's property, Etiwanda, on Thursday 30 April 2009. The members were not disappointed and returned to their properties inspired by the Mosely family's achievements. I know I certainly was.

Andrew with attentive participants

Patrick, my husband, and I were lucky to have heard Dr Dean Revell, a leading livestock researcher with CSIRO in Western Australia, when he presented in Dubbo the evening before. Dean's ideas resonated so well with the direction the Moselys have taken rejuvenating their land.

Instead of "sustainability", Dean suggested that land managers need to be flexible in the face of change. This is certainly true at Etiwanda. Through new forms of management by the Moselys, grasslands of a high quality are returning to the paddocks which had collapsed in the early 1990s, allowing the invasion of woody weed and goats. Andrew's father, Stuart, described how previous "best" practices of grazing grasses as low as they could go, had robbed the soil of all nutrients, especially carbon. Soil health had deteriorated so badly that the land had to be propped up with unaffordable inputs.

In the late 1990s after Megan and Andrew had returned to Etiwanda, Stuart encouraged them to do a Holistic Management course. They have not looked back!

Megan gave a presentation in their front garden to set the scene. I am always grateful when holistic managers share their holistic goal, and Megan was no exception. Enhancing the ecology of their property, using their stock to achieve this, is a major part of their goal. They intend to hand the land on in a better condition than when they received it.

Fencing takes a great deal of their time, as they divide the land up for planned grazed based on plant recovery. These fences need to be of a "total grazing pressure" standard so that goats and other feral animals can be controlled. Weston fences are used extensively.

Pasture cropping has proved a great tool in improving native grasslands. Paddocks which have been pasture cropped now have high succession

Megan Mosely and Annabel Walsh, influential women in agriculture

grasses such as paspilidiums, panics and digitaria. Megan described going down to one such paddock after January rain and rolling in the soft grass!

Dean Revell had spoken of the danger of relying on averages to plan agricultural enterprise. Taking Dubbo as an example, he pointed

Peter Weston, longest serving Stipa member present, chatting with Graeme Hand

that only 20% of years were "average" the remainder varying greatly from 600 mm rainfall. If one looks at monthly data, there is even greater variability. The Mosely's enterprise is set up to take advantage of rainfall whenever it comes, as well as to get through dry times, while aiming to maintain 100% ground cover and remaining profitable. In addition, the native grasses

Andrew Mosely explaining his Pasture Cropping machine

are pre-adapted to these varied conditions. All in all, the system at Etiwanda is designed to cope with fluctuations in climate.

Details of tynes and disc configuration of Mosely's machine

The result of these management practices at Etiwanda is a diverse grassland, with many species appearing which may be new to the Mosely's stock. However, with low stress stock handling, the stock are more likely to try these different forages. Animals are designed to manage complexity, so once used to this complex pasture, they will thrive. Dean has shown examples where animals do infact "self-medicate" or choose plants they require for their current situation. This is impossible in a monoculture.

Clearing the woody weed invasion is a huge challenge for the Mosely's, battling not only the trees themselves but the bureaucracy that dictates the maintenance of native trees. However, Andrew is gradually "discing" areas prior to pasture cropping, within the law, and regaining the grasslands which were there at the time of white settlement. These grasslands were a distinguishing part of the Cobar landscape at least until Kidman had his butchers shop there in the 1880s. Kidman describes the landscape in his diary as rolling hills, covered in grass.

One wonders where the passion for trees has arisen in the minds of conservationists and bureaucrats. Surely a balance between trees, shrubs and grasses would be the desired outcome.

I finish with a quote from "The Omnivores Dilemma", by Michael Pollan, which explains beautifully why it was so exciting to see grasslands ex-

Grasslands at Etiwanda, Cobar

tending over hundreds of acres at Etiwanda, near Cobar, NSW.

"*..it is upon grass, mediator of sun and soil, that the human gaze has always tended to settle, and not just* our *gaze, either. A great many animals, too, are drawn to grass, which partly accounts for our own deep attraction to it: We come here to eat the animals that ate the grass that we (lacking rumens) cannot eat ourselves. 'All flesh is grass'. The Old Testament's earthy equation reflects a pastoral culture's appreciation of the food chain that sustained it, though the hunter-gatherers living on the African savanna thousands of years earlier would have understood the flesh-grass connection just as well. (*As would have Aboriginal Australians..my comment.) *It is only in our time, after we began raising animals on grain, that our ancient connection with grass could be overlooked.*

Or…partly overlooked, for surely there is an abiding affection for the stuff—reflected in our scrupulously tended lawns and playing fields, as well as in the persistence of so many forms of

grassy pastoral, in everything from supermarket labels to poetry—expresses an unconscious recognition of our one-time dependence. Our inclination toward grass…is our inherited genetic attraction for the plants and animals and landscapes with which we have coevolved."

Many thanks to Xanthe White for organising such a successful day and, of course, to the Moselys for their hospitality.

For more information visit:
www.etiwanda.com.au
www.csiro.au/peopleDean.Revell.html

Soil carbon

Graeme Hand

As preparation for the visit to the Mosely's field day at "Etiwanda", Cobar a calculation of the difference between carbon emitted from livestock, fertilisers, diesel and electricity versus carbon captured as soil carbon was undertaken. These results were calculated from several soil carbon results taken from soil tests.

As these soil test results were only from a depth to 10 cm these results would underestimate the amount of carbon actually captured. The Kyoto Protocol has been set at measuring soil carbon to 30 cm and Col Seis' work has shown that major change from planned grazing and Pasture Cropping occurs in the 20-30 cm soil depth.

Soil scientists argue that soil tests are not accurate enough but as Christine Jones points out many are happy to average carbon in forests from a few measurements but do not consider the same averaging technique valid in soils.

So with the above as background it seems that the combination of management practices that the Moselys have been using have resulted in rapid increases in soil carbon.

Using these increases to calculate carbon captured versus carbon emissions indicates that these practices can capture up to five times as much carbon as is emitted from livestock and fossil fuel use.

(Calculations based on part of property where soil carbon measured).

Estimated emissions:
780 t CO2e per year

(Melbourne University Greenhouse Accounting Tools—Eckard 2008)

Estimated carbon captured:
4900 t CO2e per year.

Case study on Roly Poly

Leonie & Adam Coleman

When we returned to Wilgara, Quambone NSW in December 2003 we decided that this paddock was one of the worst. It was predominately chenopods with a few perennial grasses scattered.

Paddock full of Roly Poly

The landscape had been affected by set stocking and a reduction in beneficial flooding. These two factors combined to create a great environment perfect for Roly Poly to thrive.

We started planned grazing in October 2007 and found this was improving the quality of the paddock with more perennial grasses such as Curley Windmill, Native millet, Summer Warrego and Box grass. But being Generation X we wanted things to happen a lot faster and were not content with being the marathon runners and wanted to be sprinting.

Daybreak Disc seeder at Wilgara

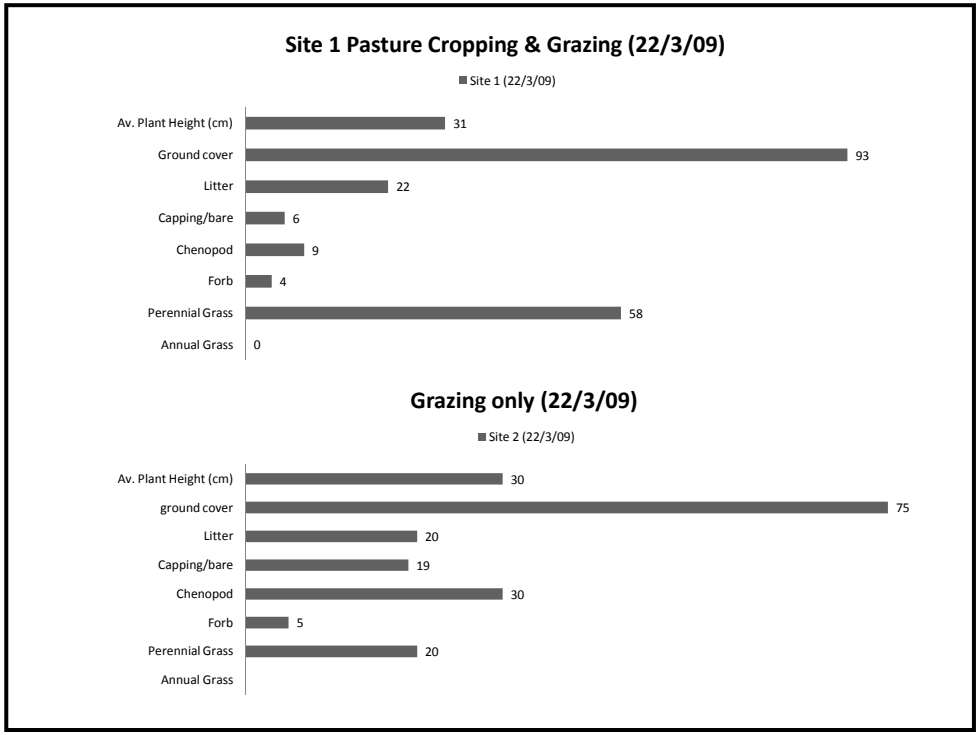
After some debate (Adam and I were both agronomists in former lives which makes decisions difficult) we decided to dry sow Millet with a single disc seeder.

Soil impact from Disc seeder.

This was completed in November 2008 and the millet was a spectacular failure. However the process of sowing the millet with our Daybreak-Disc seeder (all 9 tonne of it) resulted in effectively squashing the

Aerial view of Roly Poly showing strip not impacted by Disc seeder.

Same trial paddock sown to Barley



Monitoring confirmed Pasture Cropping and Grazing Management moved us more rapidly to a Native Grassland.

Roly Poly and allowing the native summer growing gasses which were already established to really get going.

This was helped by some timely rain in November which interrupted our wheat harvest but was perfect for our summer perennials.

With hindsight we were naïve to sow a C4 with the native perennial but we underestimated the amount of grass hidden in and under the Roly Poly. The desired end result was achieved; we just expected the millet to out compete the Roly Poly which didn't happen.

The paddock has improved with a good increase in native perennials. We now have a dominance of Curley Windmill grass instead of Roly Poly and it has moved up the paddock rating to near the top.

Around Easter we sowed the same paddock to barley which is at early booting and looking good amongst the medics and now dormant summer perennials.

Our intentions are not to harvest but to graze it around 200 days.

Final report on the WeaLtH Project

Xanthe White

Executive Summary

The CWCMA/Stipa WeaLth project has overwhelmingly developed goodwill for both CWCMA and Stipa. This project was successful in linking training to incentive funding. Stipa's experience in other catchments suggests that this project has led to an increase in effectiveness and engagement of landholders in adopting new triple bottom line farming practices.

Evaluation

Wire and Water Project

- Stipa allocated $600,000 on Improved grazing management projects.
- 19 landholders with a total project area for Improved Grazing Management of 13,108 hectares
- Most landholders combined their grazing management projects using both water supply and fencing and livestock control.
- The Central West was well represented with projects from Lidster, Crudine, Cumnock, Wellington, Dubbo, Coolah, Baradine, Quambone and Warren.
- Over 70% joined our On Farm Project series.

Summary Machinery Conversion

- Stipa allocated $100,000 on Conversation Farming projects.
- 17 landholders with a total project area for Conversation Farming of 18,354 hectares.
- Approximately 60% of the landholders choosing to convert existing machinery.
- The Central West was well represented with projects from Bathurst, Wellington, Mudgee, Yeoval, Peak Hill, Coonamble and Warren.

Grazing management at Coonamble (above) and Lidster (below)

Comments from Landholders on the WeaLtH Project

- Great incentive to implement change. Great project and well coordinated. We would have taken five years to start and finish project but funding has brought this forward. Would like to see funding continue.

Water management—Coonamble

- With the great rain we have had this year we have been able to implement our rotational grazing quicker after we finished our fencing project and we have seen already great changes in our recruitment of grasses and my father has never seen the grasses so good.
- Very interested and happy to follow the process. New way to approach. Enjoyed Pasture Cropping workshop.
- Very happy with project and the rotational grazing is working very well. Hope to see more funding.
- Hoping to get some more funding to finish off the water but pleased with the fencing and hoping with the hilly areas the stock will now utilise the grass better.
- Made you analyse the project and speak to other people and change your ideas. Stop and think of alternatives. Learning all the time.
- Cutting up the larger paddocks I have seen an improvement in grasses this year and the season has been good so I expected to see a lot of burrs but they have been greatly reduced and I believe it is from the rotational grazing and the resting of my paddocks.
- Very happy with conversion. Pasture Cropping workshop very helpful. Can really see a way of adding cropping into my grazing system. Increase nutrients and soil health.
- Great to see money used to assist worthwhile projects. Found business break through from workshops.
- Without your assistance we simply could not have converted the machine. It certainly has allowed for less soil erosion and for the retention of moisture and groundcover before sowing. We have already noticed a decrease in weeds.

Machinery conversion—Wellington

Machinery conversion—Bathurst

Water management—Nyngan

6th National Native Grasslands Conference DVD

is now available

$35 (postage included)

2008 Horsham Conference proceedings are on disc.

$30
(postage included)

To order your copy contact Stipa on 02 6833 9920 or xanthe.stipa@bigpond.com

On Farm Project Series Presentations

The most exciting part of the On Farm Project Series was how farmers learnt from each other and then developed different ways of approaching problems which still lead to the same positive result. The following outline of the Denison's presentation clearly demonstrates this point.

Two trial areas: grazing management and pasture manipulation

Penny & Mike Denison, "Kialgara", Coonamble

The Denisons chose to do two trials side by side in an area that was farmed occasionally but it had been overrun by Roly Poly.

One side of the fence was flattened by a tyre roller and the other side was fenced of into 1/3 hectare.

Roly Poly each side of the fence

There had been good rain falls in November/December. There were mainly annuals growing amongst the barley and Roly Poly, with a limited number of perennials, mainly Windmill grass, Button grass and Panic grass.

January 2009: 60 cows and calves were grazed for two half days in the 1/3 hectare. (They had to let them out for water.)

The stock ate and trampled most plants. The Roly Poly had only limited disturbance

On the other side of the fence the Roly Poly were flattened by a tyre roller in preparation to sow oats, Pasture Cropping the area with a direct drill machine.

March 2009: received 142 mm rain, some of the species growing were Hairy Panic, Neverfail, Barnyard

Tyre roller treatment and sown with oats

Looking across trial paddock with rest of paddock in background, tyre rolled and sown to oats

grass and Wild turnip. There was less new growth around where the Roly Poly was thickest.

April 2009: received 52 mm rain, mainly annuals like Cape weed, Wild Turnip and Paterson's Curse. A lot of bare ground and mainly annual species growing. There is a bit of dry matter from summer growth. Perhaps a bit less bare ground.

May 2009: received another 52 mm of rain. May good ground cover, more perennials evident.

The Denisons will continue to trial the areas but it was evident that the tyre roller had initially a larger impact to reduce Roly Poly.

Trial areas: grazing management

Henry Welsh, "Gunningbar West", Warren

Approximately 8% of "Gunningbar West" is clay pan. The area chosen was one of the worst cases of any of the clay pans. Henry believes these areas are sensitive areas and they are grazed heavier as the grasses are sweeter and are easily compacted. The clay pan areas grow approximately 60% less volume of grasses than the other areas on the property.

Grasses found were Hairy Panic, Love grass, Windmill grass, Trefoil and various forbs.

Monitoring

Photos were taken at the site every four weeks. Henry noticed an increase in ground cover by 20-30%. Plants have the chance to re-seed. A small increase in leaf litter and oxidised plant material. Ground became softer and more penetrable. Henry noticed after rain events water was taking into trial plot better than it was in areas around trial area where sheep were grazing.

Changes as a result of trial

Increase rest periods which are currently 150 days. Paddocks need to be subdivided to increase rest periods.

The trial area has had 270 days of no stocking pressure and the increase in plant density and ground cover heavily indicates the advantages there are in the longer rotation.

Over all the country this trial has enhanced the need to encourage the native grasses, shrubs and trees to have there natural recovery period without the constant disturbance of grazing.

Future plans

Over the next four years Henry would like to have 30 paddocks, currently he has 19. Increase the paddocks by 2-3 each year starting with the most fragile, then onto the larger paddocks. He would also like to turn 445 hectares of cropping country back to native pastures.

1600 m^2 portable yards set up over where the sheep had hooved the area and rain was received a month later

End of May 2009, Henry noticed that the plant species became more diversified.

The December Newsletter will feature more On Farm Project Series Presentations.

Successful end to the On-Farm Project Series

Graeme Hand & Xanthe White

Stipa has successfully finished the On Farm Workshop Series. Our last round of meetings was held in late May where landholders presented their findings from the trial plots they set up during the series.

The social research conducted has shown that landholders have increased skills and motivation while demonstrating that Stipa can provide knowledge, information and assistance with regenerative land management practices. A major bonus of this project has been that landholders developed skills and experience in identifying environmental causes, designing trials to address the cause and then implementing these trials. At the conclusion of the project landholders prepared and presented a PowerPoint presentation of their trial (many for the first time). This presentation demonstrated that the landholders had also acquired detailed monitoring skills.

Angus and Rick Maurice's Disc machine. They have been very pleased with the results.

Angus Maurice explaining the history of this Pasture Cropped paddock

In February Stipa presented Pasture Cropping (PC) and No Kill (NK) Cropping to the five groups.

Angus Maurice presented to the Dubbo and Molong groups and hosted the two groups at his property "Gillinghall", Wellington.

Sample of feedback: Made us think about how to implement NK & PC into our farm management; Stirred my mind, sends me away with more questions to answer; Getting a better idea of ground cover; Much clearer understanding of the differences between PC & NK, knowing which method is appropriate for me.

Matt McKenzie showing the group his Tyne machine.

Angus Maurice presented to the Quambone group in 40 degree heat at Matt McKenzie's property at Coonamble.

Sample of feedback: Informative and inspirational; Inspired to follow through with PC; Talked to other people doing the same thing; Greatly help in understanding PC & NK also having the chance of comparing SF (short fallow), NK & PC.

Col Seis presented to the Coolah group and hosted the day at his property "Winona", Gulgong.

Col showing the benefits of 100% groundcover all year round

Sample of feedback: Provided points to consider about our own grasslands management; Linked concepts into logical conclusion; Much greater understanding of PC.

Col Seis also presented to the Tottenham group at PJ Edwards' property at Tullamore.

Col showing the soil under his composting litter

Sample of feedback: Knowledge from someone who has actually done it; Allowed face to face with Col Seis; Allowed me to organise future direction on my farm.

The five days were very well represented with an average satisfaction score of 4.7 across the five days.

Paddock had been Pasture Cropped in 2008 but low rainfall, however Col had been impressed how many different native grasses had been recruited.

Stipa was able to sponsor two extra days for the groups: a Soil Health day at Eric Harvey's property "Gilgai", Guerie and a Stipa members' field day at Andrew and Megan Mosely's property 100 km out of Cobar. Both days were held in April.

The Soil Health day was well represented with many people coming from around the Central West to hear Eric Harvey's presentation. He spoke about his farm achievements and his soil health findings over his six properties.

Eric has been working closely with Elaine Ingham since participating in one of her workshops in 2007 in Wellington. Eric furthered his knowledge by enrolling in a two week intensive soil biology course at Southern Cross University.

Eric and Wendy Harvey presented a PowerPoint of the family's goals and their achievements since 2002. Prior to the group arriving Eric made up a compost tea brew for everyone to see and showed how easy it is with the right ingredients to make your own compost.

Wendy and Eric graciously had us all to lunch to sample some of their Gilgai Farms grass fed sausages and rissoles. which were delicious. (For information on how to purchase Gilgai beef see the advertisement on page 14.)

Grasslands at Gilgai

One participant brought along some of his own compost for the group to see and Eric was able to show us on his computer (which was attached to a microscope) some of the millions of fungi, bacteria and living organisms that exist in the compost.

This was mind boggling to many of the group but very interesting.

The most exciting part of the day for many was the field trip. Eric was able to show us paddocks that we had seen in the morning on the PowerPoint presentation which were very bare and had been over grazed and/or over farmed prior to him owning the land. The change in these paddocks was significant after grazing management, pasture cropping, tea composting and tea feeding. We are lucky Eric likes to experiment as we were able to see in different paddocks where he had trialled all four in combination (grazing management, pasture cropping, tea composting and tea feeding) and in other places where 1, 2 or 3 different applications had been used, all with interesting results.

Stipa had an overwhelming response to the field day hosted at the Mosely's property "Etiwanda", Cobar. 58 people turned out to hear Megan and Andrew Mosley present their family goals and findings on "Etiwanda".

People travelled from Western Australia, Wentworth, Wellington, Tullamore, Tarcutta, Mangaplah, Quambone and some came from up the road.

The crowd at Etiwanda

In such a harsh environment with low rainfall it is remarkable how regenerating the country with the help of grazing management and pasture cropping they have been able to control INS and return their land to native perennial grasslands. Through grazing management based on plant recovery the perennial plants have regenerated without planting. In such a brittle environment this can mean up to 24 months rest.

People walked away from their day at Cobar with inspiration and much hope.

Stipa would like to thank the Central West CMA for the opportunity On Farm Project Series has given us and we hope we can work with CWCMA in the future.

Stipa Caps

FOR SALE

$12 + postage

Contact Stipa for more information

02 6833 9920

Keep up to date with Stipa news and activities in between Newsletters
Visit the Stipa website at www.stipa.com.au

Attention all members

To ensure that you continue to receive Stipa newsletters and updates, please remember to advise us of any change of address. Also if you wish to receive emails about forthcoming events and other matters of interest, it is important that we have your correct email address.

Membership

Please Note

Stipa is changing the way they renew memberships. We will endeavour to mail out your renewal tax invoice one month prior to your expiry date. If you would like to renew please mail us a cheque or EFT your membership. Please remember to make reference on all EFT's and return cheques your I N V O I C E N U M B E R (found on the top of your Stipa tax invoice).

Contact Stipa
Ph/Fax: 02 6833 9920 Email: xanthe.stipa@bigpond.com

Can anyone help?

We have had the following request from Hunter Region Botanic Gardens Herbarium. If anyone is happy to help please contact Harry Jones.

The herbarium contains mainly plants of the Hunter Region but they would like to extend their collection to further west. If any members can suggest possible areas they the Herbarium can find the following species:

Bunch Wiregrass, Jericho Wiregrass, Hoop Mitchell Grass, Curly Mitchell Grass, Wallaby Grass, Feather Spear Grass, Forest Bluegrass, Finger Panic Grass, Brown Beetle Grass, Curly Windmill Grass, Sickle Lovegrass, Silky Browntop, Australian Sweetgrass, Umbrella Canegrass, Tasmanian Wallaby Grass, Pepper Grass, Coolibah Grass, Warrego Grass, Mitchell Grass, Fiveminute Grass, Gilgai Grass.

Please contact Harry Jones on 02 4987 1655 or harryjones@nsw.chariot.net.au

Stipa Perennial Calendar

You can keep it as a reference or use it any year.

A grass or grassland plant is featured each month, with identification, growth habits & grazing information.

$20 each

(including postage & GST)

For more information or another order form contact:
Stipa Native Grasses Association
T/F: (02) 6833 9920
E: xanthe.stipa@bigpond.com

Name:_____

Address:_____

Phone:_____

Email:_____

Number of copies_____

Post cheque/money order to Stipa Native Grasses Association Inc.

PO Box 224, Wellington, NSW, 2820

Or to pay by EFT:

Account name: Stipa Native Grasses Association

Westpac—BSB: 032 647 Acc No: 108 924

(Fax this form or email xanthe.stipa@bigpond.com to let me know and don't forget to reference your EFT deposit).

Stipa promotes and proves the profitable management of native grasses by motivated people in healthy landscapes.

Native Grasses Association

Application form for membership
or renewal of membership
of Stipa Native Grasses Association Inc.
ABN: 42 300 161 459

Subscriptions:

NSW & ACT members $75 pa
Interstate members $45 pa
Student members $30 pa
Corporate membership $500 pa
(These prices apply until AGM 2008 and include GST)

Name: _____

Company or Trading name: _____

Address: _____

Town: _____ State: _____ Postcode: _____

Phone: ( ) _____ Mobile: _____

email: _____

Post cheque/money order to *Stipa Native Grasses Association Inc.* to:
Stipa Membership, PO Box 224, Wellington, NSW, 2820
Or to pay by EFT : Westpac — BSB: 032 647 Acc No: 108924
Account Name: Stipa Native Grasses Association (and fax form)

Aims of Stipa Native Grasses Association:
To promote native grass as pasture and for conservation.
To educate the community about native grasses.
To document pasture systems using native grass.
To distribute information to agencies and landholders.
To network with other groups with complimentary activities.

Tel/Fax: (02) 6833 9920• Email: xanthe.stipa@bigpond.com