



said that the Science Citation report showed that the quality of the journal had been maintained in the longer term but the break-up of the research network in South Africa had impacted the number of articles submitted.

## 6.2 Scientific Editor

AR Palmer reported that the editorial board at the start of 2000 comprised Mark Hardy, Maria De Figueiredo, Sue Milton, Nicky Allsopp, Timm Hoffman and himself. Sue Milton resigned as Scientific Editor in January 2000 in order to devote more time to her work, but kindly accepted editorial responsibilities for manuscripts she had invited for a theme volume. AR Palmer took over from Sue in January 2000 as acting Scientific Editor. He thanked the members of the editorial board and the referees who in 2000 donated their time and attention to maintaining a high standard for *African Journal of Range and Forage Science*. He also thanks all those authors who showed their appreciation of the peer review process by improving their work in response to referees' comments.

In 2000, 12 unsolicited manuscripts were received. Most of the year was spent editing manuscripts that were still in the pipeline, and getting volume 16 (1-3) and volume 17 (1-3) ready for publication. Volume 17 (1-3) will appear early in 2001. Negotiating with the National Inquiry Service Centre to take over the publication of the journal has been taking place. Council has decided to sign an agreement with NISC to publish the journal from 2001. NISC will also have all copyright for a period of three years, and will market the journal to the international community via the Internet. All overseas (excluding Africa) members and subscribers will be billed directly by NISC. The GSSA will continue to fund the printing and distribution of the journal to all African members and subscribers. The abstracts of the journal will be included in the NISC CR-ROM service. Volume 18(1) is currently with the new publisher NISC.

Referees for 2000 (figures in parentheses indicate reviewers of two or more manuscripts): Allsopp N, Bartholomew P, Du Toit J., Geyer A, Ellis RP, Fish L, Hardy M, Hoffman MT, Hurt CR, Kerley G, Kgope B, Milton S, Morris C, O'Connor TG, Panagos M, Schackleton C, Simms, RP, Smit GN, Palmer AR (2), Wand S.

The focal topics covered by the papers received in 2000 were pastures (2), agricultural economics (1), and the herbaceous (5) and woody (4) components of natural veld.

Non-South African authors were from Samoa, Namibia, Mozambique, Kenya, Uganda, Jordan, USA and Zimbabwe.

M Hardy asked if there would be any changes to page charges with the move to NISC. AR Palmer replied that there would be no changes.

WSW Trollope asked if past, present and future journal articles would be available digitally. AR Palmer replied that NISC would do this.

The Chairman thanked AR Palmer for his contribution as Scientific Editor.

## 6.3 Bulletin Editor

G Peddie reported that a lack of submissions to the bulletin had resulted in no bulletin and only one newsletter during 2000. He will elicit articles and would like help from members in the different regions to get articles in order to produce two substantial editions of the bulletin during 2001.

M Hardy inquired as to what sort of article the editor wanted for the bulletin. G Peddie answered that they were looking for more popular articles, discussion papers or letters and articles on preliminary results or trends. F Hobson suggested that there be focussed bulletins with solicited articles.

## 7 Treasurers Report

The Honorary Treasurer, T Everson, presented the following budget for 2000/2001

### Grassland Society of Southern Africa - Budget - 2000/2001

	<b>Proposed 1999/2000 Budget</b>	<b>Actual 1999/00 Budget</b>	<b>Proposed 2000/01 Budget</b>
<b>INCOME</b>			
<i>Subscriptions</i>			
Membership (485) (less arrears R 15 000)	R 70 000	R 69 275	R 75 000
<i>Other</i>			
Page charges	R 15 000	R 10 571	R 15 000
Interest	R 18 000	R 10 032	R 10 000
Library subscriptions	R 11 400	R 10 000	R 5 000
Bulletin advertising	R 5 000	-	-
Journal prod. 2000	-	-	R 18 000
<b>Total income</b>	<b>R 119 400</b>	<b>R 99 878</b>	<b>R123 000</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
Administrator	R 25 600	R 14 221	R 14 000
Administration (photocopying, tel., post, stationary)	R 5 000	R 2 934	R 4 000
Web site	-	R 4 213	R 3 000
Audit fee	R 1 000	R 8 800	R 4 400
Bank charges	R 2 000	R 2 644	R 2 800
Commission - Lester Hall	R 1 700	R 796	R 900
Journal & bulletin production	R 52 000	R 26 535	R 66 000
Subscriptions	R 380	R 684	R 380
Subsistence & transport	R 20 000	R 15 604	R 22 000
PRO( Farmers' Day)	R 5 000	R 5 123	R 5 000
Computer maintenance	R 2 000	-	-
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>R 114 680</b>	<b>R 81 554</b>	<b>R122 480</b>
<b>Net surplus/loss</b>	<b>R 4 720</b>	<b>R18 324</b>	<b>R 520</b>

In response to a query from P Zacharias about origin of income from interest, CR Hurt pointed out that both the Council and Trust of the GSSA have separate investment accounts with Andrew Ewing and associates.

M Hardy asked if the GSSA would lose subscriptions from overseas members with the move to NISC. CR Hurt replied that they would retain their membership at a reduced rate but would have to subscribe directly to NISC for the journal.

P Zacharias wanted to know what the financial status of the Society was in terms of its balance sheet. T Everson replied that this stood at R24 676.28 and R3173.00 in two bank accounts.

A Beckerling suggested that the society could save money by publishing the bulletin on the website only. CR Hurt replied that this had been discussed previously and at that stage it was decided that the GSSA should retain a paper version of the bulletin. Council will revisit this issue at the next council meeting.

The Chairman thanked the Honorary Treasurer for her contribution.

The Budget was accepted.

Proposed AR Palmer Seconded WSW Trollope

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## PRO Report

The Professional Relations Officer, K Kellner, presented the following report:

### 1. International and National Environment

#### (a) Farmer's days held under the auspices of the GSSA:

- ◆ KwaZulu-Natal, Biyala Farmer's day on bush encroachment – on hold till Feb 2001 or other date as soon as possible.
- ◆ Namibia – two farmer's days about bush encroachment and control. One at Grootfontein (45 people attended) and at Hochveld near Okahandja (100 people). Presentations by Prof. Nico Smit, Chris Richter, Richard Hurt and K. Kellner. Papers must still be given to K. Kellner for publication in Agricola and GSSA Bulletin.
- ◆ Planted pastures workshop proceedings at Elsenburg – Dr Mark Hardy is busy finalising the proceedings.
- ◆ Okhombe farmer's day – no funds at present – maybe in future.
- ◆ Eastern Cape farmer's day organised by Dr Jock Danckwerts – no details received by K. Kellner. Response and attendance was very good. Several GSSA members presented papers at the day.
- ◆ Farmer's days will be held at Dundee and Vryheid with regard to Veld management and profitable beef production – 30 & 31 January 2001 - organised by Graham Peddie.
- ◆ Possible farmer's days in Humansdorp and Barkly East in 2001 – organised by Dave Goodenough.
- ◆ Other Farmer's days – please inform PRO in future.

It seems that it is very difficult to get farmer's days organised in the regions, especially with regard to sponsorships and attendance.

(b) National Department of Agriculture, Resource Conservation: Letters sent to Mr Keith Taylor (Deputy Director) and Dr M. Molohe (former Director) informing them about the objectives and how the GSSA can be of assistance with regard to matters concerning range and forage science in South Africa, e.g. PAC of GSSA and other ways – as outlined by the President, Mr Richard Hurt. Mr Keith Taylor acknowledged (by telephone) the letter and said that he will contact the GSSA if needed. The aim is to visit Mr Keith Taylor and the newly appointed Director, as well as the chief director, Mrs N. Nduli, to follow up written correspondence in person as soon as possible.

(c) No further updates by CONTACT received for some time. CONTACT will operate as Website in future.

(d) A whole lot of membership application forms went out to possible applicants, e.g. Dr T.A. Saidi and colleagues of the University of Venda. This came after the dissemination of new GSSA posters and fliers. No positive response to date.

(e) New GSSA fliers (2000) and posters (500) were printed and sent to 25 academic, training, research and other government and non-government institutions. Total expenditure for fliers, posters and postage : R 5265.00

(f) Non-members must fill in membership forms at registration desk.

(g) Trophy for best student(s) at Agricultural Colleges with regard to Range Management. Richard Hurt and Dave Goodenough have spoken to the Head of the Cedara Agricultural College. She was very excited. The costs for such a trophy will be investigated (possible R 500) and implementation will commence in 2001. If this arrangement with Cedara is well accepted, other Colleges will follow.

## 2. LTER and SANTAS

No further news from NRF with regard to SANTAS. NRF will concentrate on LTER, as this initiative is in progress. Dr Harry Biggs is appointed as coordinator. A trip to the USA is being organised and Richard Hurt will attend. Richard Hurt will in future report on LTER matters. Summary of LTER report by Harry Biggs will be published in bulletin soon.

## 3. EXPO for young scientists (GSSA Education programme)

Budget for 1999/2000: R 3700.00 paid to Karen van Rheede van Oudtshoorn.

Thanks to Karen for the smooth running and organization of EXPO on National level.

EXPO winners of 1999 and 2000 invited to congress 36 at ALDAM in Free State. Both 1999 and 2000 winners come from Hoerskool Middelburg in Eastern Cape. Only Pieter du Plessis of the Hoerskool Middelburg (Eastern Cape) accepted invitation. He will present his Expo exhibition (project) at the congress at ALDAM in 2001. Pieter du Plessis and parents have been invited to the congress. GSSA to pay expenses – accommodation and travel.

## 4. GSSA medals

Letters for nominees were sent to 54 academic and training institutions. Response by a number of institutions. Medals will be presented to 3 post graduate students at University of the Orange Free State (Head of Dept. Prof Hennie Snyman), University of Witwatersrand (Letter by Prof R.N. Pienaar, Post graduate co-ordinator at Wits) and University of Natal (Prof Nieuwoudt).

EXPO winner, Mr Pieter du Plessis will receive GSSA medal at Congress 36 at ALDAM, Free State, 2001 as stated.

## 5. Storage of GSSA Archives

Web sites of rules, regulations and Acts with regard to storage of Archives was finalized. Only important documents in GSSA archives will be selected and filed.

## 6. General

As mentioned before, the GSSA is your society. Every member of the GSSA should be a PRO. Positive attitude is very important. Send news of local initiatives or any kind of interesting letters to Bulletin or Administrator to be taken up on GSSA website.

D Joubert asked if the medals that the GSSA awarded to outstanding students were only for University students was it also possible for Technikon students to be awarded these. The PRO replied that they were also available for Technikon students.

The PRO was thanked for all his efforts in the last year by the chairman.

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## PAC Report

The chairman of the Professional Affairs Committee, AR Palmer said that it was the responsibility of the PAC to maintain a register of Professional Members in the Society. It expected members to apply for professional membership to forward their careers. The PAC also tried to get professional members to respond to government papers on legislation. In the past year the PAC had responded to requests for comment from government and other parties. CR Hurt said that the GSSA had submitted a report to the Directorate of Land and Agriculture Resource Management which had been favourably received.

P Zacharias asked if there was a profile of expertise on the website yet. AR Palmer replied that Professional members were named on the website but that there was no profile attached. P Zacharias said that he had a database of professional members' expertise and would send this to AR Palmer.

M Hardy asked if only members of the Professional Register would have matters for comment referred to them. AR Palmer replied that the PAC tries to get professional members to comment but would use any member of they were qualified. CR Hurt said that a number of eligible members had been contacted to comment on Land Affairs legislation but all had been constrained by lack of time to respond.

F Hobson commented that there was a Policy Response Protocol for eliciting comment from all members of the Society, for example through the bulletin, but often time did not allow for this.

The Chairman thanked the Chairman of PAC

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## Trust Report

The Chairman of Trust, F Hobson, presented the Trust report. R56 000 was disbursed in the previous 12 months. R40 000 of this is to support IRCVII to be hosted by South Africa in Durban in 2003.

P Zacharias reported that it was illegal for Trust to disburse money for travelling to congresses etc. Recipients had to explain in a report to Trust how the monies had been used and this should appear in the Bulletin.

F Hobson said that members making applications for funding to Trust would stand a better chance of receiving this if their request indicated how they would promote the Society.

F Hobson's term as chairman of Trust ends in January 2001.

## 11 Election of office bearers

P Zacharias and M Peel were nominated as election officers. They reported that K Kellner was elected unopposed as Vice President. Annelie de Beer and Annelene Swanepoel were elected from four nominations for additional members.

Permission to destroy the election papers was proposed.  
Proposed: T Everson Seconded K Kellner

## 12 General

## 12.1 IRC 2003

AR Palmer reported that arrangements for IRC 2003 were progressing. IRC 2003 would replace the GSSA congress that year.

D Goodenough asked if there would be a pasture session at IRC 2003. AR palmer replied that there would be one pasture session.

## 12.2 Congress 37 venue

A de Beer reported that three potential venues for Congress 37 in 2002 were being evaluated by the congress committee but no final decision had been reached.

CR Hurt said that although IRC 2003 would be replacing Congress 38 the AGM would be held in January of that year.

## 12.3 Liaison with Other Societies

CR Hurt reported that contact with the Presidents of SASAS and Wildlife Management Association had been made about the potential for forming a broader based body. This body could pool resources in terms of holding a single congress and reduce duplication in administration. The presidents of the three bodies all indicated that they were keen to pursue discussions. A further meeting with the other Societies would be held after the first council meeting in March 2001. Other possibilities existed for joint publications.

P Zacharias congratulated the council on making progress in this respect but he pointed out that it was important for the GSSA to maintain its Southern African nature.

## 13 Date and venue of next meeting

The next AGM will be held during Congress 37 in the NW Province.

## 14 Closure

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

P Zacharias thanked the outgoing president, CR Hurt, and council members for their efforts in the last year.

The meeting closed at 18h00.