

Minutes of the GSSA AGM on 19 July 2006 at ATKV Klein Kariba, Bela-Bela, Limpopo

1 Welcome

Mark Hardy (MH) in the absence of the President, welcomed all to the AGM.

2 Present and apologies

Present

D Balfour, A Barac, H Biggs, L Bodibe, J Botha, A Bronn, L Brown, A Chauke, J Clayton, P Conradie, C Dannhauser, G de Beer, F du Toit (Administrator), J du Toit, S Dube, A Dyason, L Dziba, T Everson, R Fynn, E Goldschagg (SANSOR), W Goqwana, CC Grant, M Hardy, C Helm, A Jacobs, D Jewitt, D Jordaan, G Jordaan, J Jordaan, K Kellner, H Kilian, K Kirkman, L Kleyn, F Luthuli, P Malan, PW Malan, K Mbatha, M Mojapelo, K Mopipi, J Naiken, D Ndlovu, HP Nel, T Nzuzza, J Pauw, G Peddie, J Peel, M Peel, M Robertson, E Sabiiti, P Scogings, R Scott-Shaw, A Short, N Smit, H Snyman, J Theron, W Trollope, L van den Berg, F van Oudtshoorn, J van Schalkwyk, E van Zyl, I Venter, S Vetter, N Visser, P Wragg, I Zimmermann

Apologies

A Swanepoel, N Findlay, S Ammann, N Allsopp, D Grossman, R Hurt, P Zacharais, C Everson

3 Additions to and acceptance of the agenda

No additions to the agenda.

The agenda was accepted:

Proposed: Winston Trollope

Seconded: Graham Peddie

4 Approval of the minutes of 19 July 2005

The minutes were accepted as is:

Proposed: Susi Vetter

Seconded: Winston Trollope

5 Matters arising

5.1 Congress 42 (2007)

Susi Vetter reported that there had been an enthusiastic response from the Eastern Cape members to host the Congress.

Grahamstown has been proposed as the venue for the Congress. It is small, attractive with a friendly atmosphere. Having the Congress in Grahamstown will also attract the local university staff. The University campus is excellent, with good conference facilities. The facilities have been provisionally booked for the period. Delegates have the option of staying in the residences or taking accommodation in any of the many B&Bs nearby.

There is a range of land uses nearby which can be used for Congress tours, such as game farming, commercial agriculture (particularly dairy) and communal areas.

The proposed budget is very conservative, and is based on 150 delegates and no sponsorship. Additional delegates and sponsorship will therefore be a bonus to the Society.

Susi Vetter has approached the Thicket forum, which has their annual meeting around the same time, to join the Congress next year. She is awaiting a response from them.

Winston Trollope supported the Thicket Forum joining the Congress, and Rob Scott-Shaw seconded.

Klaus Kellner suggested that more emphasis was needed on the poster sessions, as there are many good data and ideas in posters.

There was some discussion about the fynbos forum joining the Congress, but it was agreed that the Fynbos forum was too big (approximately 200 people) and had many different aims from the GSSA.

In the last two Congresses, the organising committee has not been involved in arranging special symposia. Rather, interested members have approached the organising committee with proposals for special symposia; these members have taken it upon themselves to arrange speakers, chairpersons, etc for the symposia and this system has worked very well. Susi requested that members contact her with ideas for special symposia (contact her through the Administrator).

The organising committee has already decided to get the dairy industry involved, as Alexandria, an important dairy region, is nearby.

Winston Trollope pointed out that wildlife management is an important land-use in the area, and suggested that Dave Balfour, head of research for Eastern Cape Wildlife, be brought in.

5.2 Strategic Plan

Mark Hardy reported on the Strategic Plan.

In 2004, the Council with some external facilitators developed a strategic plan to guide Council to achieve the vision and objective of the GSSA (see the February 2005 issue of Grassroots). The plan was intended to be dynamic and the Society must regularly revisit the plan, before revising it every four to five years.

One of the objectives identified in the Strategic Plan was to strengthen links with other environmental organisations. There has been good progress so far – links have been established and maintained with the South African Ecological Observation Network (SAEON), National Grasslands Biodiversity Programme (SANBI-NGBP), Eskom Science Expo and others.

The diverse backgrounds and disciplines of the delegates at Congress 40 and 41 illustrated the relative success of marketing the GSSA to a wider audience.

The GSSA needs a slogan to help describe the Society to a wider audience, since very few people know what the GSSA is about. The slogan should be short, catchy, and capture the essence of the Society. A competition for members to create slogans for the GSSA will be advertised in the Grassroots.

6 Treasurer's report

6.1 Report and new budget

Justin du Toit has been Acting Treasurer since the last Congress.

He has performed an analysis of the Society's current financial position, with some possible scenarios for the near future. The Society is solvent but only just. In one future scenario, the Society will be bankrupt by 2010. This is the optimistic scenario, based on the Society's current cash flows. Pessimistically, the Society could be bankrupt by 2008.

Expenses

The three greatest expenses are the Journal, Bulletin (Grassroots) and Administration costs.

The Journal costs are impossible to predict as NISC (the Journal's publishers) do not give quotes. In the past few years, there were a number of sharp price increases, although the average increase in the cost of the Journal over time has been reasonable. However, another sharp price increase could cripple the Society. The GSSA needs proper quotes from NISC, for at least a year in advance.

There is scope, if money can be sourced from elsewhere, to increase spending on the Bulletin to improve its quality.

Income

Almost all of the GSSA's income comes from membership fees and Congress.

The membership is increasing steadily, but not enough to offset the financial decline.

The Society is now VAT registered, meaning that the Society will have to pay VAT. Membership fees will therefore need to be increased by 14% to cover the VAT.

In the past, whatever profit may have been made from the Congress has been passed on to the Society. The profit margin from Congress has been unpredictable at best. In future, Congress organisers must factor in a payment to the Society as part of the Congress budget. This system was used for Congress 41 and appeared to work very effectively in guaranteeing a certain income to the Society.

The payment to the Society from next year's Congress has been set at R60 000. This will probably entail charging each delegate about R200 more for the Congress. Since most delegates are sponsored by their employers, R200 extra is not an unreasonable amount.

The Administrator is now contracted as the Professional Congress Organiser for all Congresses. This helps to ensure continuity and allows much more efficient processing of registrations, payments, etc. The increased efficiency that results will save the Society time and money. The PCO fees will be paid by the Congress, not by the GSSA.

Budget (see attached report for details)

Fees increased 0% in real terms, but members will need to pay 14% more for VAT.

The proposed fee structure for 2006/07 was presented. The fees were proposed by John Clayton and seconded by Graham Peddie.

The budget predicts that journal and other costs will increase by 10% annually, unless specifically stated in the budget.

The detailed GSSA budget to date for 2005/06 indicates a net loss of R44 000, although the financial year will only end in September. The year-end figures are likely to indicate a positive balance.

There is a new credit card facility to enable members to pay their fees online. The Society can also claim VAT back from the NISC payment, as the Society is VAT registered.

The actual fees received to date are only half of expected. However, this is normal – most fees are recovered in the second half of the year.

The budget was proposed by Winston Trollope and seconded by Leslie Brown.

Winston Trollope and Mark Hardy expressed their appreciation to the Acting Treasurer for filling the role at a crucial time and for suggesting a way out of the Society's current financial crisis.

6.2 Membership fees

Discussed in point 6.1 above.

7 Editor's reports

7.1 Scientific editor

Peter Scogings, the Scientific Editor, presented the report. A detailed report is attached to the minutes.

Klaus Kellner has stepped down as an Assistant Editor but will stay on as an Advisory Editor. Luthando Dziba has joined as Assistant Editor. There are three new Advisory Editors.

Khanya Mbatha has joined as an administrative assistant, to help the Editor with keeping track of submitted papers.

The Editorial Board has been increased from 19 to 25, with 9 resident in South Africa.

The submission rate has increased, and the rejection rate of papers has increased to 35%. Currently, a paper takes 7-8 months from submission to be accepted.

Twenty papers and 4 book reviews were published. Most papers are on rangeland topics, with some pasture papers and some animal-centred papers. More papers are coming from southern Africa than in previous years, and a few studies from elsewhere (North Africa, or off the African Continent) have been published. More reviewers from elsewhere are being used.

For 2006, 18 manuscripts have been received. Volume 23, no 1 and 2 were sent to NISC on time. Volume 23 no 3 is due towards Oct/Nov, but may be late. The Editor is waiting for a number of revised papers to arrive.

An ASAF report published in March (www.asaf.co.za) indicates what the standing of the AJRFS is relative to other South African journals. There are 255 journals published in South Africa, of which 23 are ISI listed. The AJRFS is listed in the top 19 by impact, and in the top 45 frequently cited journals. Most editorial boards of South African journals have less than 20 members, and meet annually. Most journals request 2 or 3 referees' reports. The average acceptance rate is 73%. Generally there are less than 9 papers per issue, and the average print run is less than 500 copies.

The Editor asked the AGM to consider the option of producing two rather than three issues of the AJRFS per year. Currently, issues are published in April, July and October. One issue is usually very thin. Reducing the number of issues to 2 could increase the rejection rate (and therefore the quality of the Journal), but would probably also increase the time from submission to publication (perhaps to 15-18 months).

Alternatively, three issues could be retained, but one issue per year could be dedicated to a special theme (for example, a Congress symposium). A Special Issues Editor could be added to the Editorial Board, and policies and guidelines for managing the special issues put in place. Symposium organisers at a Congress must commit to a special issue, meet with the Special Issues Editor and Scientific Editor to agree on deadlines for submission, etc).

The Editor concluded his report by reminding all members to submit papers to the African Journal of Range and Forage Science.

The Vice-President thanked the Editor for his hard work.

7.2 Bulletin editor: Grassroots

Alan Short, the Bulletin Editor, reported that 4 editions have been produced in the previous year, as planned, and thanked those who had contributed articles to the Bulletin.

Over the last year, a number of major changes in the style and layout of the magazine have been made, with the object of creating a more professional looking magazine. The Editor has taken over the layout and design of the magazine, which was previously done by the printers, as the printers could not continue to offer layout as well as printing for the same price. The feedback from members about the new-look Grassroots has generally been positive.

The quality of the printing needs attention. One of the objectives of the Editor is to improve the quality of the Grassroots by improving the quality of the printing.

The Administrator and Editor have outlined an advertising policy for the Grassroots, although no sponsorship has yet been sourced. A generous commission for the Administrator has been added to her contract to source advertising for the Grassroots. The advertising policy will be to sell an entire issue of the Grassroots to one advertiser, rather than trying to sell small blocks of space in the text. The idea will be to cover the costs of printing a colour, preferably glossy, cover.

The Grassroots will be placed on the web, and efforts will be made to get a wider distribution than only GSSA members.

Google Scholar, an internet search engine for academic website (www.scholar.google.com) searches the Grassroots that are already online. Therefore, the Grassroots is already accessible to a wide audience through the Web.

A pdf option is available, although members generally prefer to receive a hard copy.

The Editor asked members to keep one another informed of happenings and up-to-date through the Grassroots.

The Vice-President thanked Council for their efforts and asked the AGM to get involved in the GSSA and Council activities, as it is a rewarding exercise.

7.3 Journal: report on NISC negotiations

Mark Hardy presented a report on the negotiations with NISC, the journal publisher.

NISC is now demanding R70 000 payment up front, rather than a smaller instalment with each issue. It is impossible for the GSSA to pay such a large amount. Through protracted negotiations by the Administrator, the Vice-President, and the Acting Treasurer, the first issue was sent out.

The Journal makes up over half of the expenses of the GSSA.

NISC took over the intellectual property rights of the GSSA. There have been long discussions with NISC on this issue, and the Vice-President sought legal advice on the ownership of intellectual property if the GSSA leaves NISC. The Society may need to find an alternative publisher but that would be very difficult.

NISC is producing a good-quality product, so the Council would prefer to negotiate with NISC to keep the price down.

8 Website co-ordinator report

The Website Co-ordinator, Rina Grant, thanked the Administrator who had taken over the administration of the website. New information is now uploaded to the site on a regular basis.

The Council wants to make the website work better for members by:

- Updating the expertise database. This will be done by circulating a questionnaire to members to update details.
- Linking the website to other websites worldwide.

The Crop Science Society is impressed with the GSSA website and has approached the Administrator for advice on improving their own website.

The Vice-President thanked the Administrator for her efforts.

9 Public Relations Officer (PRO) report

Luthando Dziba deputised for the PRO, Nicky Findlay, for most of the past year while she was on maternity leave. See attached report for details.

The Eskom Expo

There were 5 regional finals where the GSSA presented awards to students. Emelia Swart was awarded the GSSA prize at the National Finals in Pretoria, and was invited to attend the first day of the Congress together with a teacher from her school.

The PRO thanked all the judges who had attended the Expos on behalf of the GSSA, and encouraged more members to judge at local events.

GSSA student awards

The PRO would like to have all Colleges/universities where rangeland science is taught to have a GSSA award to present to the best students.

The winners of the GSSA awards for best student in Grassland Science were:

Cedara College of Agriculture: Tim Kleu

University of the Free State: M van Lingen (4th year BSc)

University of Stellenbosch: Clement Cupido (MSc)

University of KwaZulu-Natal: Mike Peel: (PhD)

University of KwaZulu-Natal: Mahlodi Tau (MSc)

University of the Witwatersrand: D. Kathararoo (MSc)

The PRO congratulated all winners on their outstanding achievements.

The list of Colleges and Universities and the contact details of the relevant staff is being updated, as there have been many changes recently with different institutions merging, changing names and restructuring.

10 Professional Affairs Committee (PAC) report

Leslie Brown, the chairman of the PAC, presented the report.

There are 50 professional members, with 2 new applications and 1 resignation this year.

By law, anyone who offers their expertise (i.e. consults) must be registered with the South African Council of Natural and Scientific Professions (SACNASP). The PAC has been following this issue for some time, as it directly affects most GSSA members.

SACNASP does not recognise many of our members' qualifications. The PAC chairman will meet with the registrar to discuss this issue. The GSSA may need to analyse members' qualifications. The PAC will give feedback on this issue in Grassroots, and may ask members to assist with the process.

In general, the chairman acknowledged that the PAC has not done what it could have. The chairman sent out a questionnaire to members to find out why they became Professional Members and what they expect from the PAC. There was a 45% response. Most members joined for the "Professional Status". Most were happy with *status quo*, although 20% were not. Most of the members do not want to advertise in the Grassroots or on the website. They would like to be kept more informed about job opportunities.

The PAC must bargain more for the recognition of members. Professional members can use the letters MGSSA after their names, but most people do not know what this means.

Professional Members receive a certificate (although several members have not received theirs). The PAC is also considering a membership card with an expiry date, as SACNASP issues to its members.

11 Trust

11.1 Chairperson's report

See attached report for details.

Prof Trollope thanked Mark Hardy for standing in for him while Prof Trollope was away for 4 months, and for bringing the book "Tukulu" to fruition, as well as arranging for the keynote speakers for Congress to come out from the USA.

The money in Trust totals R531 717, with R281 945 in unit trusts and R141 688 in cash. There has been a significant appreciation in value since the original investment, but the Chairman does not know how long ago that investment was made; therefore, there is no way to judge whether the Trust's investments have performed as well as or worse than the market.

There were four applications for funding from Trust:

- 1 Chris Dannhauser applied for assistance for several students. The Trust approved R10 000 provided the students presented papers. The students also helped the organisers of the Congress with the day-to-day running of the Congress
- 2 Trust donated R77 000 to the GSSA to rectify the loss of income from the 2003 International Rangeland Congress
- 3 Trust spent R14 512 towards the publication of "Tukulu"
- 4 Trust contributed R40 001 to bringing out two keynote speakers from the United States for the Congress

The National Research Foundation promised R9 700 to bring out the keynote speakers.

The Trust's potential income from the book "Tukulu" is R28 000.

John Clayton pointed out that 80% of Trust's holdings come from the GSSA. The GSSA President is an *ex-officio* member, but the GSSA Treasurer should be a permanent member. Perhaps the GSSA Constitution should be changed to reflect this.

Trust will bring a proposal about any constitutional change to the Society.

The Trust and the Trustees must be registered with the Master of the Court.

Hennie Snyman and Norman Rethman have stepped down as Trustees. The Chairman expressed his sincere appreciation for their efforts over their tenure.

The President thanked the Chairman of Trust for his hard work and willingness to stay on and coach new Trustees.

11.2 Election of trustees

Council has accepted the nominees for Trust: Chris Dannhauser, Klaus Kellner, Alan Short, Winston Trollope and John Clayton.

12 Election of office bearers

1. Vice President

One nomination: Rina Grant

2. Honorary Secretary

One nomination: Loraine van den Berg

3. Honorary Treasurer

One nomination: Justin du Toit

4. Three Additional Members

Three nominations: Khanyi Mbatha, Jorrie Jordaan, and Susi Vetter

Luthando Dziba will officially take over the role of PRO.

13 Proposed constitutional changes

Justin du Toit read the two proposed constitutional change to the meeting as they had been circulated to members in writing with the previous issue of Grassroots:

1. To replace section 1:

a. "NAME

The name of the organization is the "GRASSLAND SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA" hereinafter referred to as the "Society".

with:

"NAME AND LEGAL STATUS

1.

a. The name of the organization is the "GRASSLAND SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA" hereinafter referred to as the "Society".

b. The Society has perpetual succession and legal existence independent of its members who shall not be responsible for any liabilities of the Society and who shall have no right to any of the assets of the Society. The Society may sue and be sued in any court of law in its own name and may be represented in any legal proceedings by the members for the time being of the Society or by any other person or persons nominated or delegated for such purpose by the Society."

Motivation: In terms of the requirement to register as a Non Profit Organisation as set out by the Department of Social Development, an organisation needs to indicate in its constitution that it:

- Exists in its own right, separately from its members.
- Will continue to exist even when its membership changes and there are different office bearers.
- Be able to own property and other possessions.
- Be able to sue and be sued in its own name.

The changes were accepted as is:

Proposed: Winston Trollope

Seconded: Leslie Brown

2. To replace section 4 a ii: *"Ordinary Members are persons who are or were engaged in research, teaching, extension or administration in grassland science or in commerce involving grassland production, or who are concerned with the practical application of grassland production, provided that an applicant: either holds at least a Bachelor's degree in an Agricultural or Biological science of a University recognised by the Council, or can be admitted to this status by the Council on the grounds of knowledge of, or his contribution to the advancement of a branch of grassland science or production provided that the application is supported by a properly motivated recommendation from at least two Full Members of the Society. Prospective members with technikon degrees (MTech, BTech, or 3 (three) year national diplomas in agriculture and/or biological sciences) may be accepted as Ordinary Members, with the current required written motivation."*

with: *"Ordinary Members are persons who are or were engaged in research, teaching, extension or administration in grassland science or in commerce involving grassland production, or who are concerned with the practical application of grassland production, provided that an applicant: either holds at least a Bachelor's degree in an Agricultural or Biological science of a University or University of Technology recognised by the Council, or can be admitted to this status by the Council on the grounds of knowledge of, or his contribution to the advancement of a branch of grassland science or production provided that the application is supported by a properly motivated recommendation from at least two Full Members of the Society. Prospective members with national diplomas in agriculture and/or biological sciences may be accepted as Ordinary Members, with the current required written motivation."*

Motivation: The institutions offering tertiary training in South Africa have now changed so that former Technikons are now Universities of Technology or have merged with other universities and are able to

offer Bachelors and other higher degrees to their graduates. Provided the applicant for GSSA membership holds a degree in a relevant field, it does not seem reasonable for the Society to discriminate on the basis of the former status of the degree awarding institution. The membership requirements for prospective members receiving diplomas from tertiary institutions remain the same.

The changes were accepted as is:

Proposed: Leslie Brown

Seconded: Susi Vetter

14 General

14.1 Congress 43 (2008)

Mike Peel presented a proposal to host Congress 43 at Badplaas in Mpumalanga. The area is close to Johannesburg, the Kruger National Park, and Nelspruit.

The proposed venue is the Aventura Forever Resort. The Congress will be two weeks after the International Rangelands Congress in China. The dates will be the same as Congress 41 (17-21 July).

15 Date of next meeting

18 July 2007 in Grahamstown (at Congress 42)

16 Closure

The incoming President, on behalf of the outgoing President, thanked Council for their support and inputs over the past year. He also congratulated the Society on having a good quorum for the AGM.

President

Secretary

Date

Date

Treasurer's Report

GSSA BUDGET					
INCOME	Proposed 2004/05	Actual 2004/05	Proposed 2005/06	Actual 2005/06	Proposed 2006/07
Subscriptions					
Membership Fees	89,000	68,957	108,100	60,281	103,200
Membership Fees in Arrears	0	14,304	15,000	12,135	15,000
Other					
Annual Congress 40 (2006)	50,000	24,638	0	0	0
Annual Congress 41 (2007)	0	0	50,000	0	0
Annual Congress 42 (2008)	0	0	0	0	60,000
Advertising	0	0	0	0	0
Farmers Days, Symposia, etc.	0	0	0	0	0
GSSA Publications	0	1,800	0	0	0
Other Income	0	0	0	77,000	0
Total Income	139,000	109,699	173,100	149,417	178,200
EXPENDITURE					
Administrator	43,180	39,440	44,880	35,006	47,600
Administrative Expenses (Other)	12,000	4,575	8,000	2,719	8,500
Annual General Meeting	0	1,228	0	490	1,720
Auditors	2,000	1,140	3,000	0	2,580
Bank Charges	1,500	995	1,500	1,277	1,462
Council Expenses	8,000	4,308	8,000	4,353	6,880
Journal Expenses: NISC	72,000	84,094	80,000	25,871	68,370
Postage and Courier	0	2,791	7,000	7,489	8,600
Printing: Grass Roots	14,000	11,554	7,000	8,085	9,460
Public Relations	3,000	973	3,000	3,597	3,010
ShopDirect (Credit Card Facility)	0	0	0	4,910	5,246
Subscriptions	400	0	400	440	413
Website	2,800	2,736	3,000	2,052	3,000
Other expenses	0	0	0	0	0
Total expenditure	158,880	153,834	165,780	96,288	166,841
Net surplus/loss	-19,880	-44,135	7,320	53,693	11,359

The proposed new fees for approval are:

Category	2002/3- 2003/4	2004/5	2005/6	2006/7
Ordinary	225	260	300	342
Associate	200	230	265	305
Professional	250	290	335	382
Family	340	390	450	513
Overseas (South)	563	563	595	700
Overseas (North)	975	975	975	700
Institution	780	780	780	890
Retired	130	75	78	89

Scientific Editor's Report on the African Journal of Range & Forage Science for 2005

Editorial Board

At the start of 2005, the Editorial Board consisted of the Scientific Editor, 6 Assistant Editors and 12 Advisory Editors. Prof K Kellner resigned as an Assistant Editor, but stayed on the Board as an Advisory Editor. One Administrative Editor (Dr KR Mbatha) was appointed, Dr L Dziba joined as an Assistant Editor, and three additional Advisory Editors (Prof E Sabitii, Dr W Ekaya and Dr N Moleel) joined the Board.

By the end of 2005, the Board consisted of the Scientific Editor, Administrative Editor, 6 Assistant Editors and 16 Advisory Editors. The members of the Editorial Board are thanked for their valuable contributions to the policies, procedures and standards of the journal.

Manuscripts received, rejected and accepted

Thirty-seven manuscripts were received during 2005. Of these, 7 were received during the first quarter, 7 during the 2nd, 8 during the 3rd and 15 during the 4th quarter. Of the received mss, 13 (35%) were rejected and 15 (41%) were accepted, while 8 (22%) conditionally accepted mss are currently being revised. One ms is with referees.

The main topics covered by the manuscripts received were on pastures (7), animals (7) and rangelands (23). Submitting authors were from South Africa (23), Pakistan (4), Zimbabwe (3), Nigeria (2), Namibia (1), Tanzania (1), Ethiopia (1), Iran (1), and Norway (1). Geographical regions covered by mss included southern Africa (26), eastern, central and western Africa (5), northern Africa and the Middle-east (1) and Asia (4).

Volume 22

Twenty papers, no research notes, four book reviews, one database review and a presidential address were published in Volume 22. The mean time from submission to acceptance was 10.7 months (SE = 1.31). All material for Vol 22 was sent to NISC on time.

Referees

The referees are thanked for their contributions to maintaining the journal's standards. Fifty-four referees were involved in reviewing the manuscripts received during 2005. They were:

N	Allsopp	C	Grant	N	Owen-Smith	W	Trollope
P	Anderson	M	Hardy	A	Palmer	R	Uys
A	Ash	A	Hester	T	Papachristou	J	Villalba
S	Attwood	A	Illius	M	Peek	D	Ward
L	Brown	F	Jordaan	N	Rethman	A	Zobolo
M	Chaieb	A	Kamalak	S	Ringrose	H	Meissner
D	Codron	S	Kassier	B	Ripley	P	Muchaonyerwa
C	Dannhauser	K	Kellner	A	Short	G	Naidoo
J	Derry	T	Kepe	S	Siebert	I	Nsahlai
M	Drescher	S	Kronberg	L	Simons	T	O'Connor
G	Dryden	J	Ludwig	H	Snyman	T	Everson
S	Dube	L	Maré	M	Sternberg	M	Fernandez-Gimenez
T	Dugmore	F	McKenzie	W	Stock	S	Ferrer
L	Dziba	M	El-Shatnawi				

Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf) questionnaire

The Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf) sent a survey questionnaire to journal editors to collect information regarding the journals' current operations. This was completed and returned to ASSAf by the editor on 9 March.

PF Scogings, PhD

Scientific Editor: African Journal of Range & Forage Science

13 July 2006

PRO Summary Report 2006 Annual General Meeting for the period August 2005 - July 2006

Eskom expo

The GSSA was far more involved in the Eskom Science Expo for Young Scientists than in previous years. Prizes awarded are summarized below. Thanks to all judges who gave of their time to represent the GSSA at each regional expo.

- Kimberley: Candice Owen of Christian Brothers College, "Is there an alternative to fossil fuel generated electricity?"
- Grahamstown: Dale Morning, Andrew Still and Charles Gird of St Andrew's College, "Effect of soil type and slope on soil erosion rates"
- Stellensbosch: Marna Rarich of Somerset College, "There's an alien in my backyard"
- Cape Town: Janet Rebelo of Bergvliet High School, "Soil types and fynbos"

The national finals were held on 30 September and 1 October 2005 in Pretoria. GSSA sponsored the "Grassland Society Award" for best project with an ecological theme (rangeland issues, rehabilitation, control of alien invasives, plant/animal production, etc.). Bobby Westfall and Luthando Dziba, both from the ARC, generously agreed to give of their time to represent the GSSA as judges at the Expo. The prize of a GSSA certificate and medal was awarded to Emelia Swart from Waterkloof High School in Pretoria. Emelia's project investigated the impact of pompom, an invasive weed, on grasslands. She won a certificate, medal and the opportunity to attend Congress 41 for a day. The regional events of the Eskom Expo began again in July this year. The GSSA will endeavour to have representation at as many of the events as possible (depending on availability of judges in each region). A pamphlet was submitted to the organizers for distribution to participating schools in the hopes of promoting the prize and therefore the discipline. The GSSA will again be sponsoring an award at the national finals in October 2006.

GSSA awards

GSSA sponsored awards for the following students from tertiary institutions:

- Katherine Matchett (UKZN) was given the award for best third year student in Grassland Science for 2004.
- Michelle Payne, also from UKZN, was awarded the best Honours project for 2004. (UKZN were late in submitting their 2004 award nominations.)
- The 2005 GSSA floating trophy for the best student in range management at Cedara Agricultural College was awarded to Tim Kleu.
- Minette van Lingen (University of the Free State) was presented with an award in April 2006 for best continuous performance during all years (4) of study with an average of at least 70% in the Department of Animal, Wildlife and Grassland Sciences (her average was 83%).
- Clement Cupido (University of Stellenbosch) was awarded the best MSc project for 2005. His project was an assessment of veld utilisation practices and veld condition in the Little Karoo.
- Mike Peel (UKZN) received an award for his PhD thesis.
- Mahlodi Tau (UKZN) was presented with an award for outstanding academic achievement in range and forage science for his MSc thesis.
- Deshika Kathawaroo (Wits) received an award for her MSc thesis, which researched the nutrient status of grasslands and adjacent *Pinus patula* and *Eucalyptus grandis* plantations on the eastern escarpment of South Africa.

Update University/College List

The list of colleges has been updated. With the mergers that have taken place over the last few years, a number of universities have change names and names of faculties and departments (schools, colleges, programmes, disciplines). We will continue to update the list with the help of GSSA members at the respective institutions. We are also updating contact details of GSSA members at institutions since there are a number of members who have left their former institutions. We are encouraging GSSA members to verify information and provide us with updated information about their institutions.

MPO/GSSA Dairy Farmers' Symposium

The MPO/GSSA Dairy Farmers' Symposium was held on 1 September 2005 at the Boston Country Club. From all accounts it was a huge success. Over 160 people attended, more than 140 of them farmers. The speakers

generated much interest, as did the planting results of the no till planters. The GSSA had a table with flyers and past issues of Grassroots.

Vula Outreach Programme careers expo

The GSSA was given the opportunity to promote the Grassland science discipline at the Vula Outreach Programme’s careers expo in May this year. The GSSA shared a table with SASAS and drew a fair amount of interest from the students, who were in Grades 10, 11 and 12 from previously disadvantaged schools in the Pietermaritzburg area.

Thanks

I would like to thank Luthando and Freyni for running the PRO portfolio while I was away on maternity leave. In spite of their own work loads, they didn’t miss a beat, making sure institutions were contacted, awards were presented and reports were written. Their efforts are really much appreciated.

Nicky Findlay and Luthando Dziba
PRO

Report of the Grassland Society Trust to the GSSA AGM

1 MEMBERS

Professor Winston S.W. Trollope – University Fort Hare – Chairman;
Dr Mark Hardy – Western Cape Department of Agriculture;
Professor Hennie Snyman – University Free State;
Professor Norman Rethman – University Pretoria.

2 FINANCIAL REPORT – Ewing Adams Asset Management LTD. – 30th June, 2006

SHARE DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	ORIGINAL COST		CURRENT VALUE		% of Total	APPRECIATION/ DEPRECIATION
		Price (c)	Total (R)	Price (c)	Total (R)		
UNIT TRUST							
Old Mutual Investors Fund	2541	4254	108083.43	15439	390028.76	73.35	281945.33
TOTAL EQUITIES			108083.43		390028.76	73.35	281945.33
CASH COMPONENT							
Fixed Call							
Capital Accounts							
Income Accounts					141688.28	26.65	
Brokers Income Account							
Total Cash					141688.28	26.65	
TOTAL FOR THE MONTH					531717.04	100.00	

3 APPLICATIONS & GRANTS FOR FUNDING

3.1 Applicant: Professor Chris Danhauser- University of the North

Application for funds for students to attend Congress 41;

DECISION: Trust approved an amount of R10000-00 provided the students presented a paper or poster at the congress.

3.2 DONATION TO GRASSLAND SOCIETY

GSSA Trust donated R77000-00 to the GSSA to alleviate the negative financial situation in the Society that had developed as a result of no funds having accrued to the GSSA from the income generated by the International Rangeland Congress during 2003.

3.3 PUBLICATION OF THE BOOK "Tukulu - A Pioneers Story" by Barbara Matthews

COSTS:

GSSA TRUST contribution to publishing the book	R8912-00
Book Launch	R5600-00
TOTAL COST	R14512-00

POTENTIAL INCOME:

200 copies of the book @ R140-00 per copy = R28000-00

3.4 FINANCES ASSOCIATED WITH INVITED KEYNOTE SPEAKERS FOR CONGRESS 41

Professor Sam Fuhlendorf – Department of Plant & Soil Sciences, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma, USA

Dr Ron Masters - Director of Research, Tall Timbers Research Station, Tallahassee, Florida, USA

COSTS:

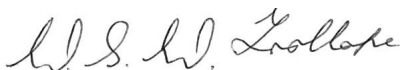
Airfares for <i>Professor Fuhlendorf</i> & <i>Dr Masters</i> – USA/ South Africa	R34201-00
Accommodation and subsistence attending Congress 41 – Bela Bela	R5800-00
TOTAL COST	R40001-00

4 POTENTIAL INCOME TO OFFSET COSTS FOR INVITED KEYNOTE SPEAKERS & PUBLICATION OF THE BOOK

POTENTIAL INCOME:

Sale of 200 copies of the book "Tukulu – A Pioneers Story" @ R140 per copy	R28000-00
Financial grant from National Research Foundation for Keynote Speakers	R9700-00
TOTAL	R37700-00

Therefore Net Costs for Invited Keynote Speakers and Publication of the Book = R16813-00



W.S.W. Trollope
Chairman: GSSA Trust
17th July, 2006