



grass roots

Newsletter of the Grassland Society of Southern Africa

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**Grasslands
Biodiversity
Programme update**

**Fire and species
dynamics**

New bursaries available

**Goat study
group in
KZN**



Editorial

Dear Members

The outraged response to David Rattray's murder has been overwhelming, from a country that has had enough of crime. David Rattray was a true South African who lived, and didn't just talk, reconciliation. Why am I writing about David Rattray? He wasn't a member of the Society, or even a grassland scientist by profession, as we all know, but he studied at the then University of Natal in Pietermaritzburg along with many of the familiar names in our field.

I never took the opportunity to travel to Rorke's Drift and listen to his spellbinding tales of the Zulu War, and now it's too late. He will be sorely missed by his friends and loved ones, and also by many who never met him.

* * *

The GSSA is continuing its association with the National Grasslands Biodiversity Programme. Lala Steyn gives an update on the programme on page 24. Major, internationally funded conservation and development programmes such as the Grasslands Programme are initiatives where the Society can play a very important rôle, because of the wide-ranging expertise of our members, and we must continue to be involved.

Alan

The Grassland Society of Southern Africa is dedicated to the advancement of the science and practice of range ecology and pasture management.

We welcome any contributions to the Grassroots, in the form of news, informative articles, reports, short research notes, scientific papers and letters to the Editor. Email Alan.Short@dae.kzntl.gov.za or admin@gssa.co.za or fax 033-3559 605 or 033-390 3113

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Upcoming events

From www.gssa.co.za

Enviro Summit 2007: Integrated Environmental Management— How Sustainable Is Your Environment?

Date: 26-28 February 2007

Venue: Birchwood Conference Centre, Johannesburg

Website: www.iqpc.co.za/cgi-bin/templates/genevent.html?topic=479&event=11856&

Conservation and Development Strategy for the Maloti-Drakensberg Transfrontier Conservation

Area: Workshop

Date: 13-15 March 2007

Venue: Howick, KZN (details to follow)

Contact: Charmaine Pollock
charmaine@maloti.org
033 239 1880

South African Soil Surveyors' Organisation Workshop

Date: 14 - 16 March 2007

Region: Elsenburg, Breederiver valley and Grabouw

Website: www.sasso.co.za

Contact: Martiens du Plessis
martiens@nwk.co.za

The 5th KNP Science Networking Meeting

Deadline for registrations: 16 February 2007

Date: 16 - 20 April 2007

Venue: Skukuza Goldfields Auditorium, Kruger National Park

Contact: Jackey Deacon
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082 447 1570

SANSOR Annual Congress 2007

Date: 3 - 4 May 2007

Venue: Spier Estate Conference Centre, Stellenbosch

Further details will be announced in February 2007

Contact: Melody Elliott (012) 349 1438/9

21st Annual Conference of the Society for Conservation Biology

Date: 1 – 5 July 2007

Venue: Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, Port Elizabeth

Website: www.conbio.org/2007

The sixth extinction - conserving zoological biodiversity: 33rd meeting of the Zoological Society of Southern Africa

Date: 8 - 11 July 2007

Venue: North-West University, Potchefstroom

Website: www.natural-events.com/ZSSA/

4th World Environmental Education Congress

Dates: 2—6 Jul 2007

Venue: International Convention Centre, Durban

Early Bird Registration Deadline: 15

January 2006

Website: www.weec2007.com/

**Joint 42nd Annual GSSA
Congress & 3rd Annual Thicket
Forum Meeting : 21st Century
Challenges: Range, Forage and
Thicket**

Date: 16 - 20 July 2007

Venue: Eden Grove, Rhodes University,
Grahamstown

Contact: Freyni du Toit
admin@gssa.co.za.

Website: www.gssa.co.za/congress2007

**XXVIIIth International Union of
Game Biologists Congress**

Deadline for submission of abstracts:

15 February 2007

Deadline for early registration: 2 June
2007

Date: 13 - 18 August 2007

Venue: Uppsala, Sweden

Website: [www-conference.slu.se/
iugb2007/](http://www-conference.slu.se/iugb2007/)

**RTEP 2007 -ERTEP 2007 - First
International Conference on
Environmental Research,
Technology and Policy: Building
Tools and Capacity for Sustainable
Production**

Date: 17 - 19 July 2007

Venue: La Palm Royal Beach Hotel,
Accra, Ghana

Website: www.ertep2007.uwo.ca/

E-mail: ERTEP07@uwo.ca



Joint International Rangeland/ International Grassland Congress

China 2008



The Joint International Rangelands and International Grasslands Congresses will be held in China in 2008. The main theme of the Congress is “*Multi-functional Grasslands/ Rangelands in a Changing World*”, with a range of session themes that should accommodate most interests.

Sessions include themes on rangeland ecology; plant breeding; water relations; multi-use rangelands; education and training; crop-

ping systems; weed and pest control; conservation; livestock production systems; and many more.

A wide variety of pre- and mid-congress tours are planned, which will be an exciting opportunity for many to see local production systems and explore the landscapes of this vast country.

For more information on the Congress and how to register, visit the Congress website at www.igc-irc2008.org

