



# grass roots

*Newsletter of the Grassland Society of Southern Africa*

*Incorporating Vol. 17-4 of the Bulletin of the Grassland Society of Southern Africa  
ISSN: 10166122 • Vol. 7 • No. 4 • November 2007*

**How to run  
pasture trials**

**Society member  
wins**

**Agriculturalist of  
the Year award**

*GSSA Award at  
Eskom Expo for  
Young Scientists*

**Game  
management in  
Africa: lessons  
for—and from—  
Europe**

***Distinguishing fact  
from fiction in  
science***

*Advancing rangeland ecology and pasture management in Africa*

# Editorial

Dear Members

Sometimes it may seem to many of us that we are working in a vacuum of official indifference to our work. A lack of recognition for hard-won skills and technical achievements can become very demotivating.

One of our own, however, has just received well-deserved recognition for his meticulous, multidisciplinary and relevant scientific research. Dr Mark Hardy, Past President of the Society and a role model and mentor for many young scientists over the years, including this one, was last month named Agriculturalist of the Year by the SA Agricultural Writers Association. Well done, Mark, and may this award be the umpteenth of many to come. You can read about Mark's achievement on page 9.

Official indifference to one's work is bad enough, but the undermining of years of research by poorly-informed advisors to the public can actively set science back by years. John Roche and D. C. Edmeades addressed the Large Herds Conference in Jeffrey's Bay earlier this year on this issue, and you can read their views on the subject on page 26.

That is only a taste of what has proved to be a bumper issue of the *Grassroots*, just in time for Christmas. Happy reading, and I'll catch up with you all in the New Year!

*Alan Short*

*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](mailto:alan.short@dae.kzntl.gov.za) or [admin@gssa.co.za](mailto:admin@gssa.co.za) or fax 033-3559 605 or 033-390 3113*

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Photo: Lizette Moolman