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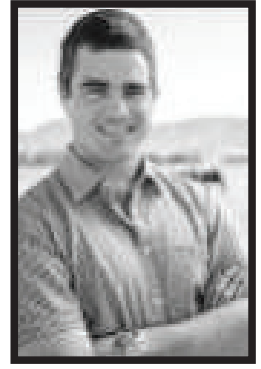
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Editor's Note



The Grassland Society of Southern Africa (GSSA) is a dynamic and inclusive forum for scientists and practitioners in rangeland ecology and pasture management, and provides a forum for debate and exchange of ideas through Grassroots. This Newsletter keeps its members and other interested parties informed of news, events, publications, reports and opportunities in their fields of interest. As always, we welcome your ideas by sending us letters, feature articles, news snippets and reports.

This issue is filled with news reports relating to the interests of grassland scientists. Amongst others, you will find more information on the Grasslands Ecosystem Guidelines, which have been released recently. This programme provides guidelines for interpreting landscapes for addressing the biodiversity-related aspects of land-use planning, management and regulation in South Africa's grasslands. Greenhouse gas emissions and global warming have always been sensitive topics for ecologists and agricultural scientists. The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) made a claim that domestic animals contribute 18% to anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions, and this allegation caused substantial harm to the reputation of livestock production systems, and in particular to the grassland-based production systems. The feature article by Dr. Albrecht Glatzle provides his contrasting positions on the recommendation by the FAO to reduce the number of ruminants at a global scale in order to mitigate climate change. A very interesting read! The 49th annual GSSA congress is around the corner. It will be hosted at the Phillip Sanders resort near Bloemfontein from 20 to 25 July 2014. Herein you will find the preliminary programme and more information on registration, keynote speakers and tours.

We sincerely hope you will find this issue to be stimulating to read and shed new light on often fairly old ideas in addition to some novel and innovative ideas.

Pieter Swanepoel