

# Editor's Note



Welcome to the first issue of Grassroots for 2016.

Grassland and pasture scientists have been exceptional newsmakers over the last three months and this issue is packed with news reports relating to the interest of grassland scientists. This issue contains numerous news articles on climate change, the new development goals, soil erosion and global food security, wetlands and more.

Furthermore, this issue contains three feature articles. The first relates to applying key concepts to achieve optimal rangeland management, by Richard Fynn. This paper relates to the paper presentation for which he gained the award for the best presentation at the 50th GSSA congress. The second is on the use of native shrubs in drought-stricken crops in Sub-Saharan Africa, an article which may be relevant for many who experience the drought currently. The third article is a commentary article on why smart agricultural development is needed in Africa's savannas. Apart from the news snippets and feature articles, this issue also informs the members of the GSSA of opportunities and events for Grassland Scientists. Make sure you register on time for the GSSA congress in July this year in Wilderness, Western Cape – You will find deadlines and information about registration inside the front cover.

Thank you to those who contributed to this issue. Enjoy reading it!

*Dr. Pieter Swanepoel*