

## EDITORIAL

Communication is the key to achievement of the objectives of the Australian Rangeland Society as set out in the Memorandum of Association. It was primarily for the purpose of improvement of communication among the diverse people interested in the discipline of range science that the seven foundation subscribers took the steps that led to the formation of the Society and to the publication of this Journal. Together with the Newsletter, the Journal must play a major role in this communication if the Society is to be an effective organization.

Mr J. Vickery in his editorial in this issue has highlighted the need for better communication between the various agencies involved in land resource management within each state. He advocates the aggregation of a number of minor groups concerned from different Departments into a single Department concerned with land resource management and the associated services units. In the interim, we would hope that the Australian Rangeland Society and this Journal will at least to some degree improve the lines of communication both within and between states.

Specifically, we see the purposes of the Journal in the following terms:

- (a) to develop communication between all those involved with rangelands, i.e. graziers, "agency" land managers, extension workers, administrators, educators and scientists;
- (b) to develop and foster a philosophy of rangeland use attuned to Australian needs both social and environmental;
- (c) to speak authoritatively on matters affecting rangeland and its uses; to represent the body of rangeland users by presenting a consensus of their aspirations and ideals;
- (d) to point out deficiencies in our present approaches to rangeland use, to extension effort, to education and to research activity.

The rangeland users – the grazing community, whether present or future – are the ultimate consumers of the efforts of the educators, research workers, extension officers and administrators. Therefore the needs and problems of the rangeland users must be the first consideration of contributors to the Journal. We do not intend it to become a Journal written by range scientists for range scientists or a Journal written by range scientists alone.

The Editorial Board invites contributions of merit dealing with:

- (a) new or tried approaches for rangeland management at the agency or property level;
- (b) approaches to the education of rangeland workers and users;
- (c) new concepts of objectives for research;
- (d) research results;
- (e) the integration of economic imperatives;
- (f) ideas on multiple use of rangeland resources.

The Editorial Board and Editorial Committee also intend to invite articles, editorials and reviews from outstanding authors both within and without Australia from time to time.

It is intended to include contributions under the following headings:

Scientific Papers	Book review (invited)
Short communications	Thesis summaries
Articles	Editorials (guest)
Society business	Editorials (Editorial Board Members)

As the intention is to publish the Journal in May and November each year, letters to the editor will be more appropriate in the Newsletter, which will appear four times per year.

In the present climate of concern for environmental matters, a great opportunity exists for the Rangeland Society and its Journal to make a real contribution to the maintenance and improvement of the productivity of rangelands in Australia. However, the Journal can only be as effective as the quality of the contributions allows it to be. We feel that this, the first issue has set a high standard and hope that this high standard can be maintained in the future.

The Editorial Board