

Fellows of the Tropical Grassland Society of Australia Inc. 2005

The Society awards Fellowships to those within its membership who have made significant contributions to the understanding, use and improvement of tropical and subtropical pastures.

ALBRECHT GLATZLE

Albrecht Glatzle, born 1951 in Göppingen, Germany, studied Agricultural Biology at the University of Hohenheim, Stuttgart, Germany from 1970–1974. Since developing countries were one of the University's foci, both in research and teaching, Albrecht went to Botswana, working from 1975–1976 in a DED (German Development Service) — FAO-UNDP project as an Assistant Range Ecologist. This was his first contact with tropical and subtropical pastures, an interest and passion that persisted for the next 30 years.

In 1977, Albrecht returned to the University of Hohenheim as a Scientific Assistant, while also researching biological nitrogen fixation in the rhizosphere of grasses for his doctoral thesis. After receiving his Ph.D. in 1981, he returned to Africa and worked in Morocco as Expert for Forage and Pasture Improvement in a GTZ (German Agency for Technical Cooperation) project until 1985.

The next four years (1986–1989) were spent as a research scientist and lecturer in tropical pasture science at the Institute of Animal Production in the Tropics and Subtropics at the University of Hohenheim. In early 1990, Albrecht moved to Filadelfia in the Paraguayan Chaco, and has lived there since that time (with an interruption in Germany): From 1990–1997, he was Pasture and Forage Expert in a GTZ R&D project and since 2000 has been Technical Director of the private non-profit foundation INTTAS (Iniciativa para la Investigación y Transferencia de Tecnología Agraria Sostenible), in charge of pasture development in the Chaco.

The common denominator in all phases of Albrecht's professional life is the development of sustainable pasture and forage production. In this, legumes have always played an important role and, as his publication record shows, his interest and engagement in legumes date back to the early 1980s when he worked in Morocco with medics and subterranean clover for ley-farming.

His work in Paraguay during the past 15 years has been particularly productive in terms of its impact on both research and development, addressing sustainable land use by improved, legume-based pastures in the semi-arid, subtropical Chaco region. This impact is not restricted to the Paraguayan Chaco but extends to the whole Gran Chaco region, which includes significant portions of Bolivia and Argentina. His work consisted mainly of introduction (in the case of legumes, even including collection of native Chaco species) and systematic evaluation of forage germplasm, forage seed production and subsequent on-farm grazing experiments. Although grasses played an important role, particular emphasis was placed on legumes and their introduction in improved pastures. Albrecht also researched the understanding of native pastures and their vegetation in both dry and wet portions of the Chaco, and on salination problems.

His work in the Chaco identified a range of grass species suitable for the Chaco, and the use of species such as Gatton panic, *Urochloa mosambicensis*, Callide rhodes and Bambatsi makarikari grass is vigorously spreading. Current grass research concentrates on *Digitaria* species. In spite of the success of improved grasses in the region, as a consequence of Albrecht's work, it has become common knowledge among graziers that legumes are required for higher livestock productivity and sustainable pasture yields. A number of suitable, persistent and even spreading legumes have been identified in grazing experiments, including Oxley fine-stem stylo, Miles lotononis, an *Alysicarpus vaginalis* accession (CIAT 17360) and, particularly, *Leucaena leucocephala* (cvv. Cunningham and Tarramba). Although no statistics are available on the area of pasture, which contains these legumes, for the Paraguayan Chaco alone, it is estimated that more than 3000 ha of pangola pastures have been improved by herbaceous legume introduction, while leucaena hedgerows were planted on about 5000 ha of improved pastures from 2001–2004.

Albrecht Glatzle has written two textbooks on (sub-) tropical pastures, one in German (*Weidewirtschaft in den Tropen und Subtropen*, Stuttgart, Germany, 1990) and one in Spanish (*Compendio para el Manejo de Pasturas en el Chaco*, Asunción, Paraguay, 1999) and is author or co-author of about 100 publications such as: research papers in scientific journals; contributions in proceedings of national, regional and international congresses and symposia; extension documents; and technical reports.

A significant recent event organised by Albrecht and his INTTAS colleagues in March 2005 in Loma Plata, Paraguay, was the *Congreso Internacional de Leucaena y Otras Leguminosas con Potencial para el Gran Chaco*. This presented impressive evidence of the success of legumes, mainly leucaena, in improved Chaco pastures. During the congress, a video and DVD on leucaena (*Leucaena — Forraje potente para el Gran Chaco*), addressing both graziers and extension agents in the Gran Chaco region, was launched.

In summary, Dr Albrecht Glatzle has rendered outstanding service to subtropical pasture science and development, and is still contributing significantly to the 'legume philosophy' for an eminently important subtropical pasture area, the Gran Chaco. Granting him the award of a Fellow of the Tropical Grassland Society of Australia Inc. is a fair recognition of these services.

DAVID MCKITTRICK ORR

David Orr has made a major contribution to research in the sustainable grazing management of Queensland's extensive native pasture communities. He has developed and refined a novel approach to the study of pasture communities by understanding the ecology of individual plants and plant species within the pasture community. This research has highlighted the importance of maintaining palatable perennial grasses in the face of highly variable rainfall and grazing pressure as the cornerstone to sustainable grazing management.

David graduated from the University of Queensland in 1971 with a major in pasture agronomy. In 1972, he joined the Queensland Department of Primary Industries as an agrostologist based in Blackall, where he was responsible for the development of sustainable grazing management strategies for *Astrelba* (Mitchell grass) pastures. He also conducted pasture extension throughout central western Queensland.

Following a transfer to Charleville in 1977, he joined the highly respected research team at the Charleville Pastoral Laboratory. He further developed his *Astrelba* grassland research and investigated the management of perennial grasses in *Acacia aneura* (mulga) communities of south-west Queensland. David was awarded both M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Queensland for his innovative research into the grazing management of *Astrelba* grasslands in Australia.

In 1986, David relocated to Brian Pastures Research Station at Gayndah, where he started his work on the grazing ecology of *Heteropogon contortus* (black speargrass) pastures. This research highlighted the role of fire in maintaining desirable pastures and how fire can be used to restore pasture composition. Because of his expertise in perennial grass dynamics, in 1988, David was invited to join two teams — with DPI and with CSIRO — researching the dynamics of *Heteropogon contortus* under grazing in native pastures and those oversown with legumes in southern and central Queensland.

David is currently based in Rockhampton, where he continues to study perennial grass dynamics in a range of pasture communities in Queensland. He has developed a particular interest in the dynamics of introduced legumes, which have been oversown into native pastures. In 1996, David conducted a review of the role of *Stylosanthes* in the stability and management of pastures in northern Australia.

He has an outstanding publication record, having presented more than 70 scientific papers in refereed journals or as contributions at international and national conferences. His earliest publication (1975) in *Tropical Grasslands*, 'A review of *Astrelba* (Mitchell grass) pastures in Australia' remains the definitive, introductory source of information for this valuable pasture community.

David has been an active member of the Tropical Grassland Society of Australia Inc. for more than three decades, serving on the Society's Management Committee for four years and as President in both 2002 and 2003.

He is also active in other scientific organisations including the Australian Rangeland Society and the Australian Institute of Agricultural Science (CQ Sub-branch Treasurer, 2001–02), and is an Honorary Fellow of the Plant Sciences Group at Central Queensland University.

David's significant contribution to the understanding of management practices in preserving the integrity, and optimising the productivity, of the vast resource of the natural grasslands in northern Australia makes him a worthy recipient of this award.