



The Science of Pastures & Grazing

2026  **PASTURES & GRAZING NSW
CONFERENCE**

TUESDAY-THURSDAY
28-30 July 2026

Pastures & Grazing NSW 2026 Conference

West's Diggers Club
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IN-PERSON AND ONLINE



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Conference Schedule

DAY 1 | TUESDAY 28 JULY

5.30pm	Welcome Reception - <i>Sponsor spotlight: Hamish Munro (Pairtree)</i>
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DAY 2 | WEDNESDAY 29 JULY

8.00am	Registrations
8.45am	WELCOME - Lester McCormick (Chairperson)
8.55am	KEYNOTE SPEAKER - Karen Penfold (Four Daughters Beef)
SESSION 1	Financial Management
9.55am	Strengthening financial management practices - Melissa Mooney (RAB)
10.30am	<i>Morning tea, trade displays and posters</i>
SESSION 2	Livestock Production Systems (session chair Bill Mitchell, Optiweigh)
11.00am	Pastures for high performance beef and lamb enterprises - Ed Clayton (NSW DPIRD)
11.30am	High performance beef (producer perspective) - Don and Jason Mack (Mitiamo Pastoral Co)
12.00pm	New technologies: Using AI in pastures and grazing systems - Tristan Steventon (StevTech)
12.30PM	Site Visits
	Tour A: Managing acid soils (Intro: Bill Manning, NW LLS) - Tom, Rachel & Matt Rummery - "Gunnalong", Bendemeer; Carol Harris (NSW DPIRD) and Jason Condon (CSU)
	Tour B: Optimising beef grazing systems for better returns (Intro: Lester McCormick, PGNSW) - Will and Stacey Sedgwick - "Riverbend", Barraba
	Tour C: Lamb preparation and processing (Intro: Georgie Oakes, NT LLS) - Andrew Jackson - Thomas Foods International, Tamworth
6 for 6.30pm	Conference dinner, Wests Diggers Auditorium (with dinner speaker Nigel Brown)

DAY 3 | THURSDAY 30 JULY

SESSION 3	Managing the Business
	<i>Sponsor spotlight: Jack Madgwick (Corteva Agriscience)</i>
9.00am	Communication Skills - Let's Talk Tactics - Malinda Guest (Boundless Psychology)
	<i>Sponsor spotlight: Tony Stewart (Elders Rural Services)</i>
10.00am	<i>Morning tea, trade displays and posters</i>

DAY 3 | THURSDAY 30 JULY (CONT'D)

SESSION 4	Managing the Pasture Base (session chair Laughlan Stewart, DLF Seeds)
10.30am	The latest on tropical pasture research - Carol Harris (NSW DPIRD)
11.00am	Diversifying the feedbase (producer perspective) - Justin and Lorroi Kirkby, (Amarula Dorpers)
11.30am	Identification and management of pasture dieback - Ted Callanan (QDPI)
SESSION 5	Managing the Soil Base (session chair Allan Peake, MLA)
12.00pm	New directions on managing soil acidity - Jason Condon (CSU)
12.30pm	Impact of grazing management on soil carbon - Warwick Badgery (NSW DPIRD)
1.00pm	Conference close and lunch

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No **two fields** are alike



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¹ NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development

² Queensland Department of Primary Industries

³ Charles Sturt University

Welcome



It is a pleasure to welcome you to the 2026 Pastures & Grazing NSW Conference.

As a science-based organisation, our role is to act as a vital conduit between research, advisory services and the grazing community. This conference reflects that purpose—bringing people together to share knowledge, challenge ideas, and strengthen the connection between science and on-ground practice.

Our goal is simple but important: to create meaningful opportunities for producers to build both their scientific understanding and practical skills in pasture improvement and management. Over the course of this event, that goal comes to life through a program designed to inform, inspire and equip.

This year's conference places a strong emphasis on the critical link between research and application. Leading scientists will present the latest insights into pasture management, grazing systems, soil health and productivity—grounded in robust research and focused on real-world impact.

Equally importantly, producers take centre stage. As the essential link between research and results, they bring invaluable perspective from the paddock. Through their experiences, lessons learned and proven strategies, we see how science is translated into practice—and how innovation truly takes hold.

We're glad you're here to be part of that conversation, and hope you enjoy the next couple of days.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lester McCormick', written over a light blue rectangular background.

LESTER MCCORMICK
Chairperson - Pastures & Grazing NSW



Karen Penfold

Four Daughters Beef |

Keynote Speaker

Karen is a Queensland grazier and business owner within a multi-property beef enterprise supplying directly into a major supermarket supply chain.

Together with her husband and four daughters, they have built a vertically integrated cattle business turning over 13,000 head annually – and growing. The business spans breeding, backgrounding and feedlot operations across multiple properties in Queensland.

SESSION OUTLINE

Karen will share the Four Daughters export journey – the ambition, the opportunities and the hard lessons that come with building market pathways beyond the farm gate. She will speak openly about the commercial realities, processing constraints and the resilience required when plans change.

She will then take the audience behind the scenes, sharing how her family is intentionally aligning across generations to support long-term growth. Having experienced the cost of unclear succession planning earlier in life, Karen now leads with clarity, structure and strong communication – bringing daughters and sons-in-law into defined roles and shared direction.

Karen combines lived on-farm experience, and with a background in education and leadership, she offers practical, grounded insights for grazing families navigating both growth and transition. Her message is simple: if you want the business to grow, the family has to grow with it.

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Find Karen's
handouts
here





PASTURES & GRAZING NSW CONFERENCE | 28-30 JULY 2026, TAMWORTH NSW



Melissa Mooney

Regional Australia Bank |

Strengthening financial management practices

Melissa brings more than a decade of experience working alongside farmers across regional NSW. Before moving into banking, she spent nine years supporting producers across the Central West and Liverpool Plains as an agronomist, developing a deep understanding of regional production systems, seasonal conditions and the decisions that shape farm performance.

Now an Agri Lending Specialist with Regional Australia Bank, Melissa combines this practical on-farm knowledge with financial expertise to help producers make confident investment decisions around machinery, land acquisition, and seasonal operations. Her ability to connect agronomic realities with commercial outcomes allows her to provide grounded insight into return on investment, risk management and building resilient farm businesses.

SESSION OUTLINE

Melissa will draw on her extensive experience working alongside primary producers across regional NSW to explore the financial considerations that underpin successful farm businesses.

The session will focus on strengthening financial management practices, with an emphasis on building clarity around farm profitability, cash flow, and risk. Melissa will also provide practical guidance on how producers can better position themselves when preparing for finance applications, including what lenders look for and how to present a clear, well-supported case.

A key component of the discussion will centre on understanding return on investment from a banking perspective. This includes evaluating capital expenditure, land purchases, and operational inputs through a commercial lens, ensuring decisions are aligned with both short-term viability and long-term sustainability of the business.

By bridging agronomic insight with financial expertise, Melissa offers a grounded and relatable perspective to help producers make informed, confident decisions. Her approach aims to support farming businesses in becoming more resilient, investment-ready, and better equipped to navigate both seasonal variability and growth opportunities.





PASTURES & GRAZING NSW CONFERENCE | 28-30 JULY 2026, TAMWORTH NSW



Ed Clayton

NSW DPIRD

Pastures for high performance beef and lamb enterprises

Dr Clayton completed a BRurSc (Hons) and a PhD in ruminant nutrition at University of New England (UNE) before commencing work with the then NSW Department of Agriculture in 1999.

Ed has been involved with industry-based commercial research as well as research examining the effects of omega-3 fatty acids on a range of disease models in humans including risk factors for cardiovascular disease. Since taking up the position of Livestock Research Officer with NSW Department of Primary Industries Ed has worked in several areas related to forage production and omega-3 fatty acids, including forage quality, the effects of nutrition on reproduction, the impacts of diet on health attributes of meat, the heritability of methane production in sheep and utilising mixed annual forage species for improved animal production and health.

SESSION OUTLINE

Forage and pasture-fed production systems represent the majority of sheep and cattle enterprises in Australia. This presentation will review a range of pasture-fed and mixed species forage grazing systems, examining average daily gain, rumen efficiency, reproduction outcomes and health aspects of meat produced. It will be shown that forages containing brassica, cereal and legume have resulted in higher average daily gains and higher rumen pH. These studies provide evidence supporting the use of pasture and mixed forages in maximising productivity in a range of sheep and cattle enterprises. Important aspects including species selection, grazing management and matching available forage to production goals will be highlighted.

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Find Ed's full
paper here

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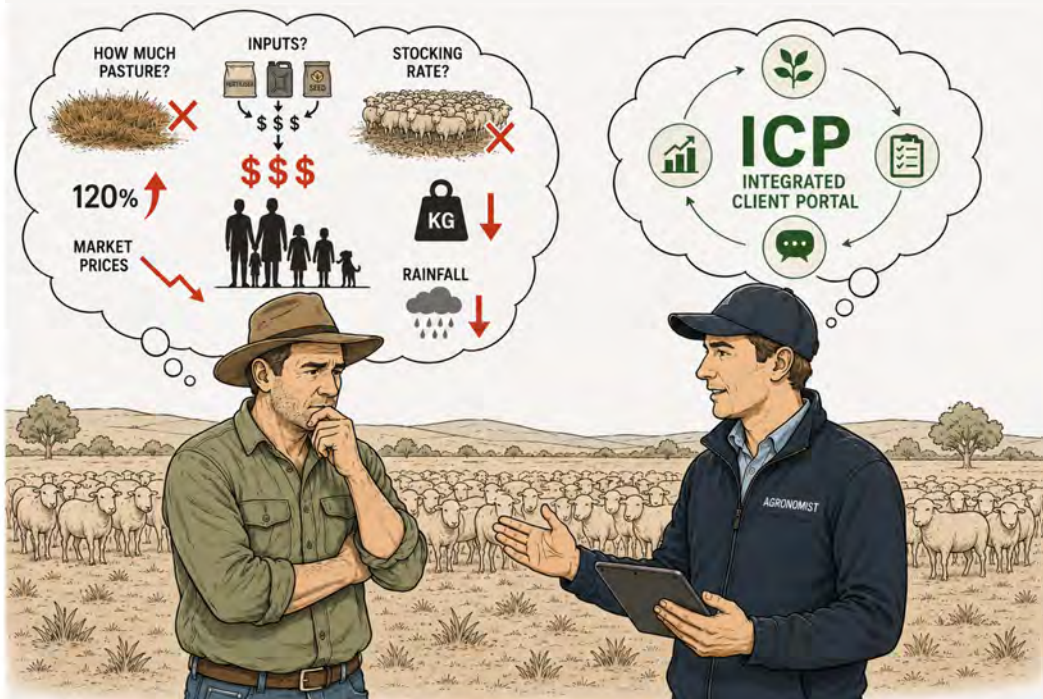
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Don & Jason Mack

Mitiamo Pastoral Co. |

High performance beef (producer perspective)

The Mack family have been farming in the Bingara district for five generations. "Mitiamo" and "Berrybank" were previously run in partnership by Don's father, John, and his uncle Jim. Don returned to "Mitiamo" in 1973 after finishing school while Jason returned in 2004 after working as a jackaroo. Today, Don and his wife Gay, together with Jason and his wife Brianna, manage "Mitiamo", "Berrybank" and "Paradise" in partnership.

SESSION OUTLINE

Historically, we operated a mixed farming enterprise of cropping, cattle and sheep. When cultivation first began, the soils were soft, fertile and full of large earthworms. But like many farming businesses of the time, cultivation was intensive, with multiple passes considered essential for successful cropping. As farming practices evolved, the business adopted direct drilling and stubble retention to improve soil health and reduce erosion.

A turning point came in 2004 when we attended the Grassland Society of NSW Conference in Gunnedah and toured George Avendano's property. Seeing tropical grasses successfully incorporated into a grazing system sparked our interest in transforming our own operation.

Our first sowing of tropical grasses in 2005–06 was of the North-West Plains Mix, utilising an air seeder and lightly covered using harrows. Despite the challenging start, the results encouraged us to continue. In 2006–07, we participated in the Healthy Soils for Sustainable Farms project, establishing a 10-hectare demonstration site with support from the NSW Department of Primary Industries. This was followed by another 25 hectares established using a home-built direct drill fitted with tynes and press wheels.

The system continued to evolve. In 2015, the direct drill was upgraded to discs, improving sowing accuracy, establishment and reduced tillage. Each year, additional paddocks were converted to tropical pastures, and in 2020 we began harvesting, drying and grading our own tropical grass seed. Second-grade seed is now used to improve our native pastures and broadcasted using a super spreader along with a clover mix, followed by strategic management to reduce competition from existing pasture species.

Today, our former cropping country has been completely converted to tropical grass and clover pastures. We now operate as a dedicated grazing enterprise, producing grass-fed cattle that are marketed at approximately 550 kg liveweight. Our focus is simple: grow quality grass, build healthier soils and produce productive livestock through sustainable pasture management.

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Find Don &
Jason's full
paper here





PASTURES & GRAZING NSW CONFERENCE | 28-30 JULY 2026, TAMWORTH NSW



Tristan Steventon

StevTech

New technologies: Using AI in pastures and grazing systems

Tristan grew up on a mixed farming enterprise in Central West NSW before serving in the Army's Special Forces, where he gained extensive experience with drones, sensors and intelligence systems designed to support fast, accurate decision-making. In 2016 he returned home and founded StevTech, applying drone and AI technology to Australian agriculture to deliver practical, real-world solutions that help farmers improve efficiency and productivity.

SESSION OUTLINE

The pace of technological change is subject to exponential forces. Graziers who assume their day-to-day operations won't drastically change in the near future are forgetting the reality of Moore's Law. The next generation of land managers will expect to manage their farms using the high-data, high-efficiency interface of a farm simulator. This may seem far fetched for something as physical as sheep or cattle farming, but that ignores compounding change and innovation.

Currently, producers face building pressures: larger areas, fewer available workers, increased input costs, and shifting weed and biosecurity threats. The presentation will attempt to cut through the AI hype and separate science-fiction from practical, on farm reality. It will address:

- **What AI Can & Cannot Do:** AI is a powerful tool for discovering hidden patterns in imagery and field data; it is absolutely not a replacement for local knowledge, ground-truthing, or agronomic judgment.
- **Practical Grazing Applications:** How automated workflows assist with pasture monitoring, change detection, herd checks, infrastructure checks, and targeted weed management, including a deep dive into our successful Sticky Nightshade drone-to-action case study.
- **The WHS Dividend:** Using targeted data collection to reduce the need for producers to traverse treacherous tracks just to complete basic checks (e.g., checking lambing ewes / calving cows).

Ultimately, the future is not about "AI replacing farmers". It is about delivering timely, targeted, and evidence-backed paddock intelligence that empowers producers to act earlier, optimise inputs, and waste less time in the face of expanding farms, reduced labour, and rising input costs.





PASTURES & GRAZING NSW CONFERENCE | 28-30 JULY 2026, TAMWORTH NSW

SITE TOURS

Tom, Rachel & Matt Rummery

"Gunnalong", Bendemeer |
(Site Tour A)



Site Hosts

Tom and Rachel purchased their first property, "Wandjina" (607 ha), in 1991. It was close to the family property where Tom grew up. They bought the family property, "Yarragool" (2000 ha), in 2004. In 2020, their son Matt joined them and in partnership they purchased "Gunnalong" (961 ha). Tom and Matt are trained in engineering while Rachel has worked as a commercial agronomist in the district for over 20 years.

SESSION OUTLINE

The Rummerys run two enterprises across the three properties. Cattle are traded on all properties while a self-replacing flock of 6000 Merino sheep including up to 1500 wethers are carried on "Wandjina" and "Yarragool".

The tour will concentrate on "Gunnalong". The property was previously a cattle and sheep grazing property with a reasonable fertiliser history. The soils are mostly coarse granites with about 20% trap soils. Long term Average Annual Rainfall is 810 mm and the elevation ranges from 800 m to 960 m.

The pastures are mainly native grasses with added legumes (sub clover and white clover) that are supered every year with single superphosphate (SSP) at 125 kg/ha. Strategic rotational grazing is used to maintain groundcover at 95–100% and the winter rest means trade steers can be bought a bit earlier than other producers in the area who carry livestock and feed through the winter.

Appletree paddock is the first that was sown to improved pasture. In 2023, the paddock was fertilised with 125 kg/ha SSP. It was sprayed in December 2023 with Glyphosate and Metsulfuron, burnt and then sprayed again in February 2024. The paddock was cultivated in February 2024 and then in April 2024 annual ryegrass and Paradana Balansa clover were broadcast along with 125 kg/ha Starter 15. The paddock was resown to annual ryegrass and clover in autumn 2025 with 125 kg/ha Starter 15.

In late spring 2025, the paddock was again sprayed out. A soil test in December 2025 indicated a pH_{Ca} of 4.46 at 0–10 cm and a pH_{Ca} of 4.64 at 10–20 cm. Exchangeable aluminium was 2.26% and 3.96%, respectively. Lime was broadcast at 2.8 t/ha following the soil test. In December 2025, the paddock was also speed tilled which incorporated the lime to about 5 cm. A tropical grass mix of Premier digit at 3 kg/ha, Whittet kikuyu at 2 kg/ha and Consol lovegrass at 1 kg/ha was broadcast along with 125 kg/ha Starter 15.

The plan was to broadcast additional clovers in autumn 2026, but there wasn't enough rain. The lime was used primarily to improve the survival of the clovers and rhizobia as well as to improve the rooting depth of the tropical grasses and hence increase the water use capacity of the soil.

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Find site
handouts here



Notes

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Will & Stacey Sedgwick

"Riverbend", Barraba |
(Site Tour B)

Site Hosts

Will returned to the family business of Hereford cattle and Merino sheep in the catchment of the Horton valley in 1987. Purchased in 1989, "Lauderdale" (559 ha) supported a Merino breeding enterprise, and Will and Stacey moved there in 1991. The country in the Horton Valley was sold, and Ardrossan (601 ha) was purchased in 1998, when a transition from Hereford to Angus cattle occurred and the sheep venture was wound up. Aberlady (407 ha) was purchased in 2004, Riverbend (533 ha) in 2015 and lastly Borah Vale (510 ha) in 2021.

SESSION OUTLINE

The business is run as a partnership and has for the last 25 years joined Angus cows to Wagyu bulls, producing F1 progeny which are all sold at approximately 450 kg. Initially our own bred Angus heifers were retained, however, for the last 10 years, we have purchased replacement heifers from as far away as King Island during 2020. We have utilised genomic testing to improve the marbling and growth traits of the herd, which has two calving periods annually – July/August and February/March.

In our production system, we have feed all year round when it rains with a combination of different pastures and oats. Subtropical pastures are based around Digit, Rhodes and Panic grasses, while sub clovers have been added to this mixture to fix nitrogen. Temperate pasture mixes of phalaris and tall fescue grasses, along with sub clovers too. The remaining native grass country has been fertilised and legume seeded with sub clover and arrowleaf clover.

Oats, the cash driver, is sown annually with MAP or DAP fertiliser and is top dressed with nitrogen based products depending on the season. All of our plantings for the past decades have been direct drilled to conserve moisture and maintain soil structure. Nutrition and moisture in our grazing system are determinants of profit in turning off kilos of beef from our properties.

We incorporate the Optiweigh system into our management and have two of these for weighing cattle out in the paddock. Monitoring weight ranges and daily gains allows for an understanding of feed quality without bringing the cattle into the cattle yards as regularly. This fits well with our philosophy of low stress stock handling practices.

Our business continues to have to make sustainable choices and decisions with the challenges of economics, environmental and climate factors at hand. We need to respond and adapt to the circumstances they present to move forward into the future.



Notes

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SITE TOURS

Andrew Jackson

Thomas Foods International
Tamworth Sheep Abattoir
(Site Tour C)

Site Host



Andrew has built a distinguished career in the livestock industry spanning nearly three decades. For the past 28 years, he has worked as a dedicated livestock buyer, sourcing quality stock from across the state and building strong relationships with producers along the way.

He began his career as a commission buyer, gaining valuable industry experience and developing a deep understanding of market trends and livestock selection. Andrew later joined Country Fresh, where he continued to expand his expertise and strengthen his network.

Approximately 14 years ago, when Thomas Foods International (TFI) acquired the business, Andrew transitioned seamlessly into his role with TFI. Since then, he has remained a trusted and knowledgeable presence in the field, known for his industry insight, reliability, and long-standing commitment to producers and partners alike.

SESSION OUTLINE

This tour offers participants a small-group inspection of the abattoir, a vertically integrated global food business that processes and supplies high-quality meat products to domestic and international markets.

The tour will commence at the automated distribution facility, where robotic systems sort, pack, and transport cartons using barcode technology, before progressing through the processing floor, livestock holding pens, rendering plant, and biogas facility. Employing approximately 900 staff across two shifts, TFI is a significant contributor to employment and economic activity in the wider Tamworth region.

Participants will gain valuable insights into the key criteria buyers consider when selecting sheep on behalf of their clients, as well as practical advice on preparing lambs for sale. Andrew will also provide an overview of current export market conditions, emerging industry trends, and TFI's strategic objectives.



Notes

[illegible]

CONFERENCE DINNER

Nigel Brown

Veterinarian,
Writer and Entertainer

Dinner Speaker

Nigel grew up on a 2,000-head dairy research farm in England before qualifying as a vet in 1975 – a family tradition since his great-grandfather qualified in the 1800's from Edinburgh University.

After three years in UK general practice, he relocated to North Yemen for three years on an aid project – the start of a peculiar love-affair with arid lands. Nigel has worked in 26 countries, mostly developing nations, with diverse hands-on roles including disease control, captive breeding and rehabilitation of gazelles in Saudi Arabia, oiled birds after the 1991 Gulf War, camel production in Ethiopia, MLA's Livestock Services Manager for the Middle East and Africa, five years in Mongolia on assorted projects and two stints in Australia with Bombala RLPB and Glen Innes LLS. He is currently a Chairman of Stock Welfare Panels for DPI.

Along his journey, he has earned an MSc in Tropical Animal Production and Health, membership of the Animal Welfare Chapter of the Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists, Honorary Life Membership of the Mongolian Veterinary Association, awarded 'Outstanding Expert of Food and Agricultural Sector' in Mongolia and the National Emergency Medal for his efforts in the 2019-20 bushfires.

ADVENTURES AMONG PASTORALISTS

Tonight's light-hearted talk will cover some of his favourite incidents – including three stints in Yemeni jails and getting up-close-and-personal with gun-runners, smugglers and Muslim terrorists. He gained his spurs as vet on two four-month horseback research expeditions in Mongolia 30 years ago, more recently riding almost 800 km across Gobi from Ulaanbaatar to the Chinese border in 10 days and participating in the world's longest horse parade.

He'll also share stories about working with quite a few of the world's nastiest livestock diseases - and catching some of them!





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Malinda Guest

Boundless Psychology |

Communication Skills - Let's Talk Tactics

Malinda is a Clinical Psychologist and Director of Boundless Psychology, with extensive experience across public and private health settings supporting a wide range of mental health conditions.

Trained in evidence-based therapies such as CBT, EMDR, and ACT, Malinda combines clinical expertise with a tailored approach to focus on workability in real life settings. She is a Board-Director, Board-Approved Supervisor, a member of several APS committees, a mentor with the Country Education Foundation, and provides supervision and teaching at the University of New England.

SESSION OUTLINE

Recognising the power of effective communication, Malinda created Let's Talk TACTICS - a preventative, structured communication framework. TACTICS equips individuals, workplaces, and communities with practical tools for meaningful conversations, particularly around difficult issues. Unlike one-off initiatives, TACTICS has been successfully implemented in diverse contexts, locally and nationally, demonstrating relevance across personal, professional, and community settings. Participants, from individuals to leaders, consistently report it is practical, easy to use, and confidence-building.





PASTURES & GRAZING NSW CONFERENCE | 28-30 JULY 2026, TAMWORTH NSW



The latest on tropical pasture research

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Tropical pastures have become an increasingly important component of grazing systems across New South Wales (NSW). Over the last 30 years, the role of tropical pastures in NSW has evolved from cautious adoption to an increasingly integrated component of many grazing enterprises as knowledge of species adaptation, establishment, and management has improved. This presentation will consider emerging challenges and opportunities shaping the next phase of tropical pasture research in NSW, including climate resilience, pasture diversity, sustainability, emissions reduction and emerging pest and disease threats. Current and emerging research priorities will be discussed in the context of developing productive, resilient and adaptable grazing systems for the future.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins or other markings on the paper.

Queensland
DPI

A man with short blonde hair, wearing a light-colored straw hat with a brown band and a bright blue button-down shirt, is smiling at the camera. He is standing in a field of tall, golden-brown grass. In the background, there are rolling hills under a clear blue sky. The man's shirt has some text on it, including "St. Lawrence" and "New York".

[https://www.pgnsw.com.au/
conference-proceedings/
conference-2026](https://www.pgnsw.com.au/conference-proceedings/conference-2026)

 [Find Ted's full paper here](#)

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Justin & Lorroi Kirkby

Amarula Dorpers

Diversifying the feedbase (producer perspective)

Justin and Lorroi Kirkby, together with their sons Sam, Flynn and Jock, are the family behind Amarula Dorper and White Dorper Stud. Established in 2000, Amarula is now recognised as one of Australia's leading Dorper ram-breeding operations. Based at "Glenavon", near Gravesend, and at their new property, "Sandhurst", at Quambone, they have developed a successful breeding program focused on fertility, carcase quality, structural soundness and commercially relevant genetics.

Alongside their commitment to breeding productive, resilient sheep, Justin and Lorroi are passionate about regenerative agriculture. They continually work to improve soil health, increase biodiversity, and establish productive, diverse pastures and native grasslands across both properties. Tree planting, saltbush establishment, and multispecies pasture cropping are important tools for improving drought readiness and further enhancing soil health.

Their aim is to build a more resilient farming system that supports livestock performance, protects natural resources and leaves the land in better condition for future generations.

SESSION OUTLINE

We established the Amarula Dorper Stud in 2000 and it remains our main livestock enterprise, breeding Dorper and White Dorper rams for seedstock and commercial producers. The stud is operated across "Glenavon" and "Sandhurst", with planned growth in both ewe and ram numbers to meet increasing demand for the shedding sheep industry. The core stud currently includes 800 ewes at "Glenavon", with numbers planned to increase to 1,000.

"Sandhurst" is currently running 1,000 young ewes, with numbers expected to increase to 1,500 by the end of 2026. The enterprise also runs 750 rams at "Glenavon", aged between 5 and 15 months.

Annual ram sales are currently around 700, with a target of 1,500 rams per year within the next three years. The breeding program operates on three lambings every two years, with a target lambing rate of 200% per year.

The properties we bought were all rundown farming country, and with our multispecies approach to both pastures and forages, we have been able to make "Glenavon" a productive grazing property and we will use the same approach on "Sandhurst".

We spoke at the 2019 Grassland of NSW Conference at Gunnedah on our multispecies approach to pastures and forages and were happy to be invited back in 2026 to share our pasture progress.

<https://www.pgnsnsw.com.au/conference-proceedings/conference-2026>

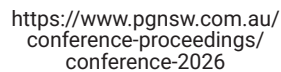


Find Justin & Lorroi's full paper here





PASTURES & GRAZING NSW CONFERENCE | 28-30 JULY 2026, TAMWORTH NSW



Charles Sturt
University

Soil acidity has long been understood to be a problem in south-eastern Australia. Although liming remains the best method to manage acidic soil, old practices of low pH targets (pH_{Ca} 5), inadequate application rates and no or ineffective incorporation have resulted in the continued formation of acidic subsurface layers. This presentation will detail how regular monitoring in smaller depth increments (5 cm), maintaining higher pH targets (pH_{Ca} 6) and calculation of lime rate requirements that account for application method are required to slow or halt soil degradation by subsurface acidification. It will be shown that proactive, preventative management of topsoil pH with lime addition remains the most cost-effective solution for growers.

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NSW DPIRD

<https://www.pgnsw.com.au/conference-proceedings/conference-2026>



 Find Warwick's full paper [here](#)

Grazing management is widely promoted as a means of increasing soil organic carbon (SOC) in Australian pastures. This presentation will synthesise findings from a systematic review of Australian grazing research (McDonald *et al.* 2023) and a decade-long replicated grazing experiment at Orange in NSW (Simmons *et al.* 2026). The findings demonstrate that claims of large, rapid SOC gains from improved grazing management are not supported by high-quality Australian evidence, and that changes observed in monitoring programs are likely to reflect land-use history and seasonal variation as much as management practice. Improved grazing management retains clear benefits for pasture productivity and ground cover, but expectations for soil carbon should be moderated.

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your pasture questions answered via our 'ask an expert' form, and receive annual conference proceedings, newsletters and more. Members enjoy exclusive access to every one of our current publications.

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You'll also connect with others who have a keen interest in pasture and grassland management: farmers, researchers, university lecturers,

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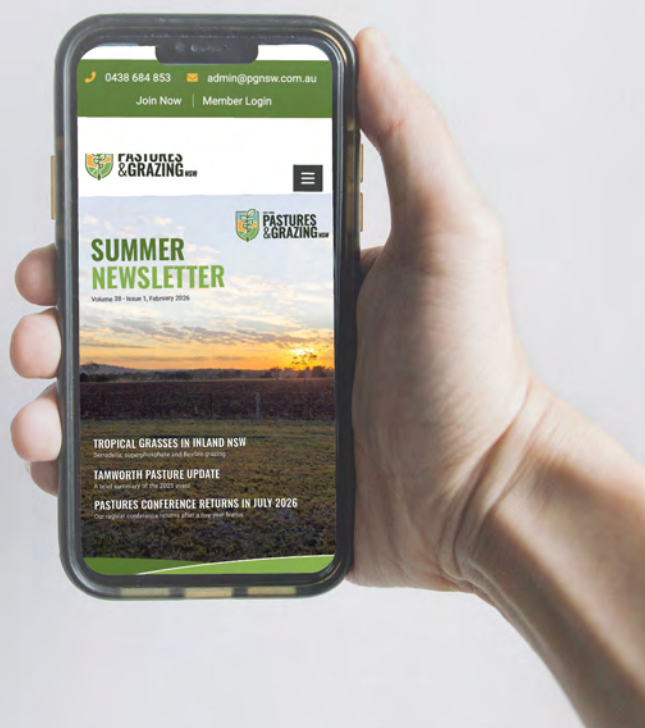
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Simply scan the QR code (or type the url) and complete the online form to join. We look forward to welcoming you.



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Thank you

On behalf of the Board of Pastures & Grazing NSW, we would like to recognise and thank our 2026 Conference Committee members for their efforts and commitment in delivering this event.

Lester McCormick
Jonathan McLachlan
David Harbison
Keith Garlick
Bill Manning
Georgie Oakes
Josh Somerville
George Truman
Nidhi Avasthi
Mel O'Sullivan
Anne Baker





2026 PASTURES & GRAZING NSW CONFERENCE

Need a re-cap?

The **2026 Pastures & Grazing NSW Conference** is livestreamed and will be available to watch again later.

Follow the steps below:

1. Scan the QR code or type in the url
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