



Innovation



in the Rangelands

This is the conference for you

You are invited to the 18th Biennial Conference of the Australian Rangeland Society to be held in Alice Springs, Northern Territory from 12th - 16th April 2015.

At this four day event, you will engage with the question of how to live sustainably in the rangelands – now and into the future? The conference theme is **Innovation in the Rangelands.**

Delegates will share their ideas and experience of how to nurture, then develop and share, innovative solutions

to the challenges of living successfully in our rangelands environments, where climate extremes, remote urban decision making and small, isolated communities are common. What advances can we build on to ensure the social, cultural, economic and environmental wellbeing of people, businesses and communities who depend on our natural landscapes?

Both the nature of the land and the people who live here have generated many imaginative and practical solutions to living in the rangelands. This is the

opportunity to hear about these solutions and consider what else needs to be done.

Alice Springs

Alice Springs is a vibrant town of 27,000 people, set in the midst of the beautiful MacDonnell Ranges. It is a hub for many activities: tourism, pastoralism, biodiversity conservation, recreation, mining, government at all levels and delivery of services to remote communities. The town and surrounds are on traditional Aboriginal lands and

indigenous arts and crafts abound in cultural centres and commercial galleries. There are also thriving community arts and sporting groups, and a wide choice of eating experiences.

April is an ideal time to visit because days aren't too hot and nights aren't yet freezing, gorges will have water, visitor numbers aren't too high and green vegetation is a possibility.

We do hope that you will join us in Alice Springs in 2015.

Innovation



Call for Abstracts

We invite you to submit abstracts for presentations addressing the theme of Innovation in the Rangelands. Contributions on the suggested topics are indicative and not restrictive, and we would welcome suggestions on other aspects of innovation that could be of interest to delegates. A diversity of presentation styles is encouraged, including case studies, video and interview. The representation of diverse voices is also encouraged, to include land managers, indigenous experience, businesses such as mining that are based on rangeland resources, researchers and students.

A Student Forum will be a feature and up to six students will be offered support to attend the conference if their contribution is chosen for presentation. Student contributions are not limited to the suggested topics.

All contributions are equally valued – please nominate whether you would prefer yours to be considered for a poster or spoken presentation. The deadline for receipt of abstracts is 24th October 2014.

If your contribution is selected as either a poster or spoken presentation, at least one author must attend the conference.

Abstracts are limited to 300 words for the body of the text and can be submitted by email to margaret.friedel@csiro.au

Abstracts should be prepared in Microsoft Word, in a plain font such as Calibri 11pt, with 1.5 line spacing.

Six key words should be included at the bottom of the abstract.

Include the first and last name, organisation, address, email address and phone details for all authors. Identify the presenting author with an asterisk*.

If you are a student, please indicate your student status at the top of the abstract. The presentation must be about student work and you must be a current student or have graduated in the six months prior to the conference

Contributors will be advised of their successful application by 10th November 2014.

'A Guide to Authors' will be available on the conference website. Completed papers for spoken or poster presentations will be required no later than 1st February 2015.

All papers will be available in the conference proceedings, which will be produced in electronic format. A selection of papers will be reviewed by an editorial panel for inclusion in a themed issue of The Rangeland Journal. Speakers' guidelines will be available at a later date on the conference website.



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Sponsorship opportunities

Sponsorship opportunities

A wide range of sponsorship opportunities are available and organisations interested in becoming a partner in staging this significant national conference can obtain a sponsorship prospectus from Ray Bird at Meeting Masters enquiry@meetingmasters.com.au, tel: (08) 9380 9804, or Michelle Armistead michelle.armistead@csiro.au, tel: (08) 8950 7121.

Registration

Delegate registration will be available in both online and printed format. Details will appear on the Conference website from late May.

Early Bird registration will open on 1st June and close on 31st December 2014.

Proposed session topics will focus on innovation in:

- ~ Rangeland communication
- ~ Leadership and leveraging distant relationships
- ~ Mining and resource management
- ~ Water sharing in the rangelands
- ~ Pastoral production
- ~ Natural resource management
- ~ Emerging and alternative industries
- ~ Policy directions.

There will be opportunities to hear Stories from the rangelands, enjoy the youthful enthusiasm of the Student forum and be intrigued by new developments in Technology.

Preliminary Program

The organisers envisage there will be a mix of podium presentations, video, small group discussions, demonstrations and interviews.

Sunday 12th April 2015

Registration and welcome function

Monday 13th April 2015

Registration / choice of five field trips

Evening barbecue function

Tuesday 14th April 2015

Conference opening / plenary speaker

Two conference sessions

Poster viewing

Evening free. A guide to eating out will be available

Wednesday 15th April 2015

Rangeland lecture

Three conference sessions

Poster viewing

Evening free. A guide to eating out will be available

Thursday 16th April 2015

ARS general meeting

Three conference sessions

Summation and close

Conference dinner

Innovation



Proposed topics addressing innovation

Rangeland communication

Developments in social media, use of video, remote business networks, station blogs. Two aspects:

(i) how to tell stories to attract interest, investment, using these technologies, and (ii) examples of telling stories, case studies (e.g. ranger group activities, community groups, pastoralists).

Leadership and leveraging distant relationships

Leadership development (e.g. Desert Knowledge Australia's Intercultural Desert Leadership program, women in leadership) and leveraging urban interest, funding and/or political influence (e.g. the Rangeland Alliance, live export trade blog). Are they achieving the outcomes they want?

Mining and resource management

Mining and landholder partnerships: what are the challenges, successes and failures? What innovations can help to maximise benefits to both mining enterprises and community interests?

Water sharing in the rangelands

How are tradeoffs resolved amongst production, environmental and cultural demands for above and below-ground water? New developments in wise water use (e.g. use of mine waste water)

Pastoral production

Impacts of changing markets and capital investment, response to increasing costs of production, and concepts of sustainability. How is the industry changing in response to old and new drivers?

Natural resource management

What are some of the newer developments in natural resource management (e.g. private philanthropic investment, indigenous partnerships, market-based incentives) and how successful are they at achieving conservation and other goals?

Emerging and alternative industries

What livelihood adaptations are being, or could be, made to allow people to continue living successfully in the rangelands (e.g. carbon opportunities, tourism)?

Stories from the rangelands

Interviews with three personalities from different walks of rangeland life.

Student forum

Bright ideas from the new generation of rangelanders.

Policy directions

Rangeland residents want a say in the decisions that affect them, equitable access to government investment, better services, a place that will retain our children, and inclusion in the greater Australian story. The present policy arrangements rest upon outdated treatment of the rangelands as jurisdictional backyards. This theme will explore policy addressing this raft of challenges.

Technologies – for showing during poster sessions

An opportunity to display or present new or adapted technologies, inventions or approaches that contribute to improved rangeland living, resource management, business, research or extension.



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Training & Workshops

Training courses may be available on topics of interest to members (such as Research skills, Writing papers, Funding for R&D, Community governance) and delivered by external providers, in the two days (11th and 12th April 2015) preceding the conference. The ARS Council is keen to gauge the level of interest amongst delegates. Please send proposals for training sessions to Dr Carolyn Ireland, ARS Council Secretary, at cireland@irimpl.com.au.

Delegates are also welcome to run their own workshops in the two days preceding the conference. Workshops can be advertised on the conference website but all other arrangements must be made by the delegates. Meeting space may be available but is not guaranteed.

Please contact Ray Bird at Meeting Masters enquiry@meetingmasters.com.au, tel: (08) 9380 9804 regarding advertising on the website and availability of meeting space.

Field Trips – 13th April

Delegates will be offered up to five (5) Field Trip itineraries – some will be **full day** excursions and others **½ day**. The cost of participation will be included in the delegate registration fee. Some proposed trips include:

Trip A – Technology and diversification in pastoralism – Living off the Rangelands

Arid Zone Research Institute horticultural research and then Old Man Plains and Undoolya Station –showcasing technology in pastoral production and diversification.

Trip B – Many industries and roles in rangelands – tour to Hermannsburg

Owen Springs Reserve and further west – visit the Wallace Rockhole Aboriginal enterprise cultural site and Hermannsburg historic precinct. Hear about gas field developments including the new Dingo gas field. The trip will encompass conservation, Aboriginal enterprise, central Australian history, feral animal control, and energy exploration and development.

Trip C – Desert waterhole tour

A grand scenery tour where delegates will visit several permanent waterholes in the spectacular West MacDonnell Ranges. We will interpret the geological setting and hydrological and ecological processes of this iconic landscape.

For many, permanent waterholes are jewels of the desert; local expertise and the fresh eyes and minds of visitors will ensure lively debate of conference themes.

Trip D – Innovative technologies

Learn of the recent history of Alice Springs as a solar city, visit the Uterne Solar power station and see small-scale innovative solar-panel installations and associated monitoring equipment at the Desert Knowledge Precinct. Other opportunities may include the Centre for Appropriate Technology's Bushlight program, the CRC for Remote Economic Participation's energy futures research and the NT Power and Water Corporation's plan for renewable energy supply for local communities.

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Conference information

Conference Venue

The venue for the 18th Biennial Conference is the Alice Springs Convention Centre, which offers delegates the opportunity to experience the true essence of the outback while enjoying current technologically advanced facilities. The centre comprises Main Plenary, Breakouts, Exhibition and Boardrooms and will be the location for the conference business sessions.

Where to Stay – Book accommodation direct

Due to their proximity to the Centre, seven (7) quality accommodation facilities have been chosen as “preferred” properties. The first four are within easy and safe walking distance of the venue. The seven facilities will be the only ones to receive daily coach transfers.

The “preferred” properties are –

- ~ Lasseters Hotel Casino
- ~ Doubletree by Hilton
- ~ Desert Palms Resort
- ~ Alice in the Territory
- ~ Quest Apartments
- ~ Alice on Todd
- ~ Big 4 MacDonnell Range Cvn Park

The organising committee has designated the Lasseters Hotel Casino as the “Conference Hotel” and delegates are asked to state the codeword “RANGELANDS” when making your booking to enjoy a special conference rate.

Contact 1300 808 975 or reservations.

lhc@lasseters.com.au

All accommodation bookings are to be made direct. Details of other accommodation options together with information regarding local tours and car hire can be obtained by contacting the Alice Springs Visitor Information Centre on tel: 1800 645 199 or visit www.discovercentralaustralia.com

How to get there

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- ~ Broken Hill 1646km
 - ~ Boulia (via Plenty Highway) 811km
 - ~ Halls Creek (via Tanami Highway) 1049km
 - ~ Katherine 1168km
 - ~ Kalgoorlie (via Outback Highway) 1974km
 - ~ Mt Isa 1170km
 - ~ Port Augusta 1229km

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- ~ QantasLink – Departs Darwin twice daily
 - ~ Qantas – Departs Cairns, Adelaide, Perth, Sydney, Melbourne and Ayers Rock daily
 - ~ Qantas – Departs Brisbane on Saturday and Sunday
 - ~ Tiger Air – Departs Sydney and Melbourne on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday
 - ~ Chartair – Departs Tennant Creek on Monday and Wednesday

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- ~ The Ghan – Departs Adelaide on Sunday and Wednesday
 - ~ The Ghan – Departs Darwin on Wednesday and Saturday

These schedules are current as at time of printing, however, are subject to change. Delegates are advised to check with the respective transport operators prior to planning their travel arrangements.

Airport Transfers –

Alice Wanderer Airport Services meet all arrivals and provide a coach transfer to Alice Springs central accommodation. Cost of the fare is \$15 per person.

Specific ARS Conference delegate transfers from and to the airport are not scheduled.



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For further information contact:

Ray Bird
Senior Event Manager
Meeting Masters
Tel: 61 8 9380 9804
Fax: 61 8 9238 1336
Email: enquiry@meetingmasters.com.au

or visit the Australian Rangelands Society Website
www.austrangesoc.com.au/site/18thBiennialConference

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