

LAND TALK

Newsletter of the 'Centralian Land Management Association' (CLMA)

Happy New Year to all our members, from the team at the CLMA office.

TELEMETRY FIELD DAY

(& William Ck Gymkhana)

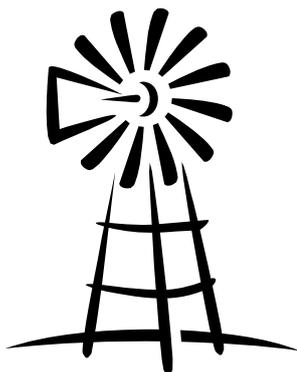
19-20th March 2005

William Creek, SA

[more information on flyer attached]

The Arid Areas Catchment Water Management Board (South Australia) is offering reimbursement to interstate producers who attend the Telemetry field day. If you are interested, give Andrea a ring and we'll send you out a registration form.

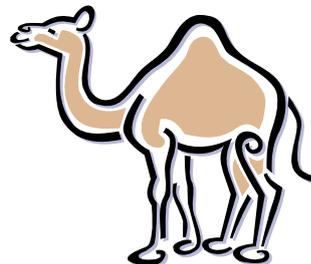
Hurry, they will only reimburse travel and accommodations (half of total) for a few participants from the NT – it is likely that we will be able to get a couple of cars full from Alice Springs to minimise costs. The field day will be a great opportunity to find out the latest developments in telemetry, and a chance to catch up with other producers who are using telemetry in their grazing systems.



CAMEL numbers on the up

Recent reports by the Parks & Wildlife mob, and experiences from many pastoralists on the desert edges indicate that camel numbers are dangerously increasing. It has been predicted that the total population of camels is doubling every 8 years. Just to maintain existing numbers, it has been calculated that 10% of the population needs to be removed/killed every year.

Many places that haven't had camels before are starting to find them sneaking in from the boundaries. As the population is increasing, demand for food is pushing camels (especially bulls) into new country.



ARE FERALS CHOMPING YOUR BOTTOM LINE?

They're hard to sell, expensive to shoot, and compete with livestock for pasture and damage fences. If you have any ideas about where the industry and agencies need to concentrate efforts to solve the camel problem, give us a call.

Funding applications close soon.

If you are interested in putting in an application for Envirofunds, you'd better get the biro whirring.

Applications close 18th February.

Please don't hesitate to give Andrea a call if you are stuck or need help.



Is your country ready for a drink this year?

Hopefully, we're coming up for some rain!
How ready is your country to use what falls?

WHAT SPEEDS UP RUN-OFF?	WHAT INCREASES INFILTRATION?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Gullies and deep cattle pads ▪ Scalded, hard or compacted surfaces ▪ Bare sloping ground ▪ Badly placed roads or fences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Leaf litter ▪ Grass tussocks, herbage, trees & shrubs ▪ Healthy top soil
<p style="text-align: center;">WHAT ARE THE SIGNS OF TOO MUCH RUN-OFF?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Having to fix your floodgates after every storm ▪ Getting bugged-all pasture growth after good rain ▪ Dirty creek flows ▪ Sandy creeks lined with silt and soil ▪ Gully heads forming or getting bigger ▪ Soil profile remaining dry after rain 	

WHAT IS ACCEPTABLE RUN-OFF?

All landscapes have run-off. Depending on the type of country, the amount and rate of run-off will be different. *In a healthy grazing system, your soils should be able to absorb at least 65% of rain that falls.*

The ABC Country Hour reported this week that rainfall for central Australia is currently well below average, and many parts of the region are experiencing gaugings in the lowest 10 per cent of records. To ensure most effective pasture growth, any rain that does fall needs to be fully utilized. This is not possible if run-off rates are too high.

If you want some help or more information about maximising rainfall utilisation this season, give us a call at the CLMA office.

CLMA's Grazing Land Management (GLM) project is compiling information to help managers to find out more about better managing pastures and utilising effective rainfall. Keep an eye out for course dates later this year.



EMS Project Update

Dee Walsh (08) 8953 4230

Soils in the rangelands are relatively infertile and all the nutrients that are needed to grow grass are in the top few centimetres. So what are the ramifications for your pasture management when you let soil, water and nutrients run down the nearest road or creek?

In this continuing series, some of the EMS participants have recorded the ways that they try to achieve good soil management. Have a read and see whether you agree or disagree with the opinions below. Do you have your own views? Let us know! We'll have similar articles on fire, feral and weed management in future newsletters.

Agree	Disagree	
		If possible, check the potential route of a new road from the air.
		It's cheaper to build a new road properly than maintain an old poor road.
		Make roads as flat as possible.
		Flatten at least one windrow to allow water to run off the road rather than down it.
		Make new roads as straight as possible, and make sure they are formed and properly drained to minimise erosion.
		Try to avoid crossing creeks with new roads. If you have to cross them, go straight across.
		Avoid building roads in or along creeks.
		Stay away from the bases of hills.
		Roads that get a lot of use must be properly formed and drained.
		When maintaining or making roads, make sure you don't cut a groove and avoid leaving windrows.
		Try to keep roadsides clean and clear to avoid water running down them.
		Forming up roads in some country is not a good idea because it increases erosion.
		Some places have fragile soils that aren't suited to typical road building methods recommended elsewhere.
		Avoid low, bulldusty spots when making new roads.
		Block up old roads and push scrub onto them.
		Construct new drains if the current ones aren't keeping up.
		Grade as little as possible in floodout country.
		Avoid windrows in floodout country.
		Try to grade when the soil is a bit moist.
		Stay off newly formed roads until it rains.
		Avoid driving on roads straight after heavy rains.
		Ponding banks are not suitable for all soils or all slopes. Sometimes they can cause more erosion.
		Avoid over-grading cleared fence lines.
		Locate fences away from creeklines to minimise ongoing maintenance.
		Put in drains or blocks along fence lines to repair or avoid erosion problems.
		Only clear vegetation along fence lines in high fire seasons.
		Use Graslan to keep fence lines free of woody weeds.
		Rehabilitate erosion along fence lines by backfilling eroded areas and installing drains to prevent future problems.
		Keep fences away from erodible soils.
		Manage erosion along fences by shifting the fence and not grading along it.

Another baby for CLMA!
Congratulations to Peter and Julia on the birth of a very early but lovely little boy, Mulga Stanley Barker.

Feeling hot, tired and in need of a cool drink or cuppa when you do your town run? Call in to see the crew at the CLMA office. Air conditioned office, kitchen and free, clean toilet! Seeya soon.



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 For enquiries about Grazing Land Management, & to contact Jo jo@aglingo.com

Grazing strategies Project all set to go for 2005



The commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries, have shown support to fund a 3 year project looking at testing and trialling sustainable grazing systems in central Australia. The trials will look to establish and monitor rotational grazing and paddock spelling on commercially run enterprises in the Alice Springs region. CLMA will be actively involved in the project design and set-up.

Watch this newsletter for more detail.