



## ANNUAL REPORT 2016

The Trustees of the AW Howard Memorial Trust met as a committee on May 18 2016 and 18 November 2016, during the course of which advice was considered from the Trust's Research sub-committee on the awarding of Travel Grants, Grants-in-aid and Research Fellowships.

Travel grants were awarded in support of research programs as follows

Name	Employer	Travel Grant Details
Nicole Speigel \$5000	Qld DAF	10 <sup>th</sup> International Rangeland Congress, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada, July 16-22 2016 with a seven-day pre-congress study tour
Jaime Manning \$4955	University of Sydney	10 <sup>th</sup> International Rangeland Congress, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada: July 16-22 2016
Tim Haskett \$5000	Murdoch University	Presenting at the 12 <sup>th</sup> European Nitrogen Fixation Conference, and the International Society for Plasmid Biology Conference 2016, Aug-Sept 2016
April Hastwell \$5000	University of Qld	12 <sup>th</sup> European Nitrogen Fixation Conference, Hungary; 4 <sup>th</sup> European Workshop on Peptide Signalling in Plants, France; visit to three international labs, Aug-Sept 2016
Trevor Hall \$5000	Qld DAF	10 <sup>th</sup> International Rangeland Congress, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada: July 16-22 2016
Cesar Pinares \$5000	CSIRO	Present at the 26 <sup>th</sup> European Grassland Federation meeting in Norway and 5 <sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Energy and Protein Metabolism and Nutrition in Poland, September 2016
Cecile Godde \$3871	University of Qld	10 <sup>th</sup> International Rangeland Congress, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada: July 16-22 2016
Stefan Caddy-Retalic \$3138.50	University of Adel	6 <sup>th</sup> DNA metabarcoding Spring School, Kunming, China, August 2016

Subsequently, Cesar Pinares did not take up his grant due to changed circumstances.

An Australian Pastoral Industry Travel Grant was awarded to Nicola Raymond, then CEO of Lucerne Australia, to lead a study tour to major lucerne seed and hay growing areas in the USA. The application was supported with a value of \$5,000.

Three grants-in-aid were supported for a total funding of \$14,840, as follows;

Name	Employer	Grant Details
Rob Shea	Perennial Pasture Systems	Perennial Pasture 8th Annual Conference, Ararat Victoria, September 14 2016
Andrew Smith	CSIRO	Support the acquisition of an Automatic Pasture Reader
Parwinder Kaur	University of WA	Support research to understand the molecular networks underlying the developmental transition from vegetative to floral state in pastures

### Grants – Howard Fellowships

An application for approval to extend a Howard Research Fellowship by three months was approved for Sky Gabb.

Four applications were received for the AW Howard Research Fellowship valued at \$10,000 per annum until the completion of the candidate's PhD for a maximum of 3½ years. An award was made to:

Name	Details
Viviana Rosati (Monash)	Epigenetic regulation of cyanogenic glucosides in the genus Sorghum

### Grants – Healey Scholarships

Seventeen applications were received for the Tim Healey Scholarship. Awards for the Tim Healey Scholarship valued at \$10,000 per annum until the completion of the candidate's PhD for a maximum of 3½ years were awarded to:

Name	Details
Mitchell Kirby (Southern Cross Univ.)	Can multiple payments for ecosystem services improve rural livelihoods and deliver better managed environments?
Corinne Celestina (La Trobe Univ.)	Investigations into the soil microbiology associated with subsoil manuring
Chelsea Stroppiana (Univ. of Queensland)	Combining controlled release and nitrification inhibition properties to deliver improved fertilizer nitrogen use efficiency by sugarcane in high risk environments

Subsequently, Corinne Celestina declined her Healey Scholarship as she had secured another award

### Clarification of Awards as Stipends

During the year and in response to inquiries by applicants and awardees, the AW Howard Trust Committee confirmed that the Howard Fellowships and Healey Scholarships were awarded as "Top-up" stipends available for those in receipt of an Australian Postgraduate Award or equivalent, for use at the discretion of the awardee. However, where an awardee was in receipt of an offer of more than one "Top-up" stipend, the AW Howard Trust would not

allow acceptance of its stipend if the awardee chose to accept an alternative “Top-up” stipend, unless that alternative award is to be used for project operation (*i.e.* not as a contribution to the student’s personal living expenses).

### **Selection of 2017 Howard Medallist and Orator**

Bob Clements, Alison Southwell, Glenn McDonald, Wayne Hein and John Radcliffe were requested to form a subcommittee to consider and advise on prospective awardees. Dr Bob Clements was authorised to negotiate with the 2017 office-bearers of the Australian Society of Agronomy for potential terms of participation in the 18<sup>th</sup> Australian Agronomy Conference (Ballarat, 24-28 September 2017) including Howard Medal and Oration presentation.

### **Trust Membership**

Professor Pauline Mooney, Trust Chair, had been given leave of absence in November 2015 for an urgent medical opportunity and Dr John Radcliffe was elected by the Committee to act as Chair. She was welcomed back to the Committee in greatly recovered health in November 2016 but stepped down as Chair and Dr Radcliffe was formally elected as Chair.

Members of the AW Howard Memorial Trust Committee were

- The Chairman of the Board, AIAST or nominee; (Mr Andrew Bishop)
- The President, South Australian Branch, AIAST; (Professor Glenn McDonald)
- The Dean of Waite Campus, University of Adelaide or equivalent; (Professor Mike Keller)
- The Dean of Roseworthy Campus, University of Adelaide or equivalent; (Professor Wayne Hein)
- Executive Director of SARDI or the equivalent officer within the South Australian Public Service; (Professor Pauline Mooney)
- A nominee of the Federal Committee of the Australian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society, who is resident in South Australia; (Mr Geoff Page)
- A person skilled in tropical grassland science; (Dr Bob Clements)
- A person skilled in perennial crop and pasture science; (vacant)
- A previous recipient of support by the AW Howard Memorial Trust; (Dr Alison Southwell)
- The Secretary for the time being of the Association; (Ms Jo Slade)
- The Financial Adviser for the time being of the Association (Mr Andrej Wojciechowski)
- Persons appointed to the Management Committee by Unanimous Resolution of the Management Committee (Mr David Brown, Mr Jeff Glasson, Dr John Radcliffe,)

### **The Healey Scholarship**

A series of recommendations from the review of a future strategy for the Tim Healey Scholarships, initiated in November 2015, was considered and policies agreed at the May 2016 meeting of the Trust, The principal aspects were that it intended to maintain the Healey fund in perpetuity, its funds be held separately from those of the Howard account, and that the value and duration of the Healey Scholarships and of the AW Howard Fellowships be maintained at the same levels. Operation was to ensure:

- Maintaining an annual call simultaneously for applications for the Healey Scholarship and the Howard Fellowship.

- Ensuring that applicants for the Healey Scholarship are alerted to the existence of the Howard Fellowship, and vice-versa, by inserting appropriate wording into each application form.
  - Maintaining for the two awards a common Selection Committee which will make recommendations to the AW Howard Memorial Trust Management Committee.
  - Maintaining the size of the Selection Committee at six, including at least one person with experience in a field of research relevant to one or (preferably) both of the awards, and including for the time being (subject to reconsideration at the next review of the Fund) at least one ex-representative of the Future Farm Industries CRC.
  - Ensuring that the Management Committee is well-informed of the field of applicants by providing Committee members with a brief summary of each application.
- It was agreed to again review the Healey Scholarship and its operation in 2019.

### **2013 International Grasslands Congress**

The AW Howard Memorial Trust had been advised that it would receive \$96,500 from the Organising Committee of the 2013 International Grasslands Congress, being surpluses arising from the conduct of the Congress in terms of an agreement by the AW Howard Memorial Trust to provide financial support for Scholarships “up-front” to ensure initial working capital for the event.

### **Financial Adviser**

The Trust Committee agreed to retain the services of Andrej Wojciechowski as its adviser and transfer its stockbroking business to Ord Minnett from Macquarie Private Wealth. Mr Wojciechowski, assisted by Jeff Glasson, have continued to advise the Trust on its investment portfolio. Details are in the separate Financial Statements for 2016.

### **Governance Review**

As a result of a process initiated several years ago in consultation with Simpsons, Solicitors, Sydney, the Trust’s Articles of Incorporation under the Associations Incorporation Act 1985 have been reviewed and brought up to contemporary standards. The principal changes have involved revising the titles of office-holders on the Trust committee to reflect their current titles which have changed in recent years. In addition, an additional by-law was added to the Trust’s by-laws to allow for the management of the Tim Healey Scholarships. The changes were registered with the South Australian Office of Consumer and Business Affairs on 29 December 2016.

### **Acknowledgements**

Appreciation is expressed for the administrative assistance that Ms Jo Slade, Ms Tanya Hommema and Dave Stewart from SARDI have provided to the Trust, to Mr Andrej Wojciechowski for investment advice, to Galpins for their financial services and to the members of the Trust Committee for their contributions, mostly out-of-session, to the operations of the Trust.

John C Radcliffe  
(Chair)

5 May 2017