

## ANNUAL REPORT 2017

The Trustees of the AW Howard Memorial Trust met as a committee on the 5<sup>th</sup> May 2017 and the 30<sup>th</sup> November 2017. Advice was considered from the Trust's Research sub-committee on the awarding of Travel Grants, Grants-in-aid, Scholarships and Research Fellowships.

Eleven **Travel Grants** of up to \$5,000 were awarded.

Name	Employer	Travel Grant Details
Clare Leddin	Agriculture Victoria Research	Present paper at 21st International Farm Management Association Congress, Edinburgh, Scotland and visit to Teagasc, Ireland to discuss the Irish Pasture Profit Index
Corinne Celestina	La Trobe University	Present paper at International Symposium on Soil Organic Matter followed by study tour to agricultural research institutions in Slovenia, Germany and Scotland
Daniel Kidd	UWA	18th Australian Agronomy Conference
Jaime Manning	The University of Sydney	Submitted paper to 7th Asian-Australasian Conference on Precision Agriculture, 1st Asian-Australasian Conference on Precision Pasture and Livestock Farming and Digital Farmer 2017 in Hamilton, New Zealand
Jason Barnetson	NT Dept of Environment and Natural Resources/ Qld Uni	Present poster/paper at Institute of Australian Geographers Conference Brisbane 11th – 14th July 2017
Jason Terpolilli	Murdoch University	Visit Professor Poole (Oxford) and present research (Aug 2017) & present at the 20th ICNF, Spain (Sept 2017)
Max Cowan	Monash University	Conference: Society for Experimental Biology (SEB) Gothenburg 2017. Study tour: Crop wild relatives as a genetic resource in crop improvement
Shawn McGrath	Charles Sturt University	Present paper at 18th Australian Agronomy Conference, Ballarat, September 2017
Skye Gabb	CSIRO	Present paper at 18th Australian Agronomy Conference
Timothy Haskett	Murdoch University	Present paper at 20th International Congress on Nitrogen Fixation, Spain
Viviana Rosati	Monash University	American Plant Biology (ASPB) Meeting 2017, Hawaii

Two **Grants-in-Aid** of up to \$5,000 were supported.

Name	Employer	Grant Details
Rob Shea	Perennial Pasture Systems	Financial assistance for 9th Annual Conference, Ararat Victoria 20 September 2017
Tim Colmer	UWA	Enable Dr Gustavo Striker to collaborate with pasture researchers at UWA and at DAFWA

No applications were received for an **Australian Graziers or Rangeland Pastoralists Study Award**.

### Honours Scholarship

Seven applications were received for an Honours Scholarship (\$5,000 stipend, \$3,000 operating) and four were awarded.

Name	Institution	Details
Lauren Innes	University of Adelaide	Evaluating phenotypic diversity in Medicago for traits linked to climate change adaptation
Alison Gill	University of Adelaide	Analysis of root morphology and exudate composition of the forage shrub Old Man Saltbush, ( <i>Atriplex nummularia</i> ) and its response to salt
Audrey McInnerney	University of Queensland	Discovery of New Factors Involved in Legume Nodulation Control
Maximilian McQuillan	University of Adelaide	Soil and plant phosphorus speciation in rangeland systems: How do plants cope with low phosphorus soils?

### Howard Fellowship

Eight applications were received for an AW Howard Research Fellowship and two were awarded. The Fellowship is valued at \$10,000 per annum until the completion of the candidate's PhD for a maximum of 3½ years.

Name	Institution	Details
Craig Stewart	Aust National University	Structural elucidation and mode of action of the bioactive metabolites associated with photosensitisation in livestock grazing the pasture legume <i>Biserrula pelecinus</i> L
Talitha Rogers	Murdoch University	Symbiotic effectiveness and genetic stability of novel inoculants for the perennial pasture legume <i>Lebeckia ambigua</i>

### **Tim Healey Scholarship**

Eleven applications were received for the Tim Healey Scholarship and three were awarded. The Scholarship is valued at \$10,000 per annum until the completion of the candidate's PhD for a maximum of 3½ years.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Institution</b>	<b>Details</b>
Brooke Schofield	University of Adelaide	Hyperspectral Data for Quantifying Crop Leaf Biochemistry
Marzia Bilkiss	Griffith University	Development and application of a novel nano-biosensor to study the epidemiology of the causal agents of botrytis grey mould on temperate legumes in Australia
Shilja Shaji	University of WA	Detection and mitigation of the impact of heat stress on productivity in Australian dairy cattle

### **18th Australian Agronomy Conference and Howard Medal and Oration**

The Howard Medal was awarded to Professor Mike Ewing at the 18th Australian Agronomy Conference. Since he was in Canada at the time and unable to give the oration in person, the award was accepted by Dr Lindsay Bell and Professor Ewing gave a 20-minute video presentation.

### **Trust Membership**

Dr Peter Appleford (Executive Director of SARDI) replaced Dr John Radcliffe as Chair; Dr Matthew Denton (University of Adelaide) replaced Professor Mike Keller who retired as the Dean of Waite campus; and Dr Lindsay Bell (CSIRO Toowoomba) replaced Mr Bob Clements who is retiring from the Committee but remains as an adviser.

### **Financial Adviser**

Andrej Wojciechowski from Ord Minnett, assisted by Jeff Glasson, have continued to advise the Trust on its investment portfolio. Details are in separate Financial Statements for 2017.

Peter Appleford (Chair)

2 Nov 2018