

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

The Trustees of the AW Howard Memorial Trust met as a committee on 22 April 2020 and 13 November 2020. Advice was considered from the Trust's Research sub-committee on the awarding of Grants, Scholarships and Research Fellowships.

Five **Travel Grants** of up to \$5,000 were awarded. The International Grasslands and International Rangelands Congress in Nairobi, Kenya, was postponed until 2021; and due to COVID-19, it is unlikely that there will be any other international travel in 2020. The grants were awarded in principle for travel in 2021 on the provision of an updated itinerary and budget.

Name	Employer	Travel Grant Details
Candice Jones	University of Queensland	European Nitrogen Fixation Conference (Naples -Aug 2020) and 8th International Meeting on Plant Peptides and Receptors (Lausanne Set 2020) (\$5,000))
Danica Parnell	University of Sydney	International Grasslands and International Rangelands Congress, Nairobi, Kenya, 2020 (\$5,000)
Jed Brown	University of Sydney	International Grasslands and International Rangelands Congress, Nairobi, Kenya, 2020 (\$5,000)
Mary-Jane Rogers	Agriculture Victoria	International Grasslands and International Rangelands Congress, Nairobi, Kenya, 2020 (\$5,000)
Ted Wolfe	CSU and NSW DPI	International Grasslands and International Rangelands Congress, Nairobi, Kenya, 2020 (\$2,000)

Three **Grants-in-Aid** of up to \$5,000 were awarded.

Name	Employer	Grant Details
Rob Shea	Perennial Pasture Systems	Commission two papers to be presented by the authors at the 12th Annual PPS Conference to be held Ararat Victoria on 3 September 2020 (\$4,800)
Judith Murdoch	Naracoorte Branch, National Trust of SA	Provide an exhibition at The Sheep's Back Museum in Naracoorte which tells the story of the discovery 100 years ago of the link between superphosphate and Subterranean Clover involving the Kybybolite Experimental Farm (\$5,000)
Stuart Kemp	Australian Grassland Association	Offsetting travel and accommodation costs of selected finalists to attend the Australian Grassland Association's symposium and participate in the 3MT competition (\$5,000)

Early-Career Research Grant

Three **Early-Career Research Grants** of up to \$15,000 were awarded.

Name	Institution	Details
Beth Penrose	University of Tasmania	Investigate soil nutrient deficiencies and toxicities in Tasmanian dairy pastures and the effect of soil nutrient concentrations on legume nodulation. (\$8,423)
Paul Chen	University of Melbourne	Investigate the use of soil microwave treatment to reduce weeds and improve productivity in typical Australian pasture species. (\$14,996)
Yi Zhou	University of Adelaide	Inoculate pasture seeds with plant growth promoting bacteria (PGPB) and evaluate the efficacy and compatibility of isolated PGPB on target pastures in glasshouse and field trials. (\$14,570)

Honours Scholarship

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

Name	Institution	Details
Martin Cuzens	University of Queensland	Understanding the effects of fire on invasive Indian Couch Grass and implications for management
Alireza Agha Amiri	Murdoch University	Activation of nitrogen fixation in root nodule bacteria in the genus Mesorhizobium
James Connor	Charles Sturt University	Using leaf area and thermal time to predict response to nitrogen application
Nicholas Stewart	University of Queensland	Enhanced cross-sectional analysis of pasture dieback sites

Howard Fellowship

Six applications were received for an AW Howard Research Fellowship and one was 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
Georgina Stagg	Murdoch University	Genetic determinants of host range in Mesorhizobium ciceri with the pasture legume Biserrula pelecinus. Start Date: Feb 2021

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.

Name	Institution	Details
Jade Rose	University of Adelaide	Controls and constraints: nutrient release and nitrogen benefit from above- and below-ground residues of pulse crop species compared to wheat in mixed cropping grain systems in southern Australia. Start Date: Feb 2020
Lily Tran	LaTrobe University	Molecular detection of agriculturally important parasites and their vectors. Start Date: May 2018 (later declined)
Alison Gill	University of Adelaide	Characterisation of the water use efficiency and water-stress tolerance of industrial hemp (<i>Cannabis sativa</i> L.). Start Date: Feb 2020

Vacancy, Dean of Waite

In the absence of a Dean, the Head of School for Agriculture, Food and Wine, Martin Cole, has agreed to be a member of the AW Howard Memorial Trust Management Committee.

Ag Institute of Australia Representation

Turlough Guerin notified the Board that Craig Davis, an Ag Institute of Australia (AIA) member from South Australia, has agreed to represent the AIA Chair at future meetings.

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 2020.

Peter Appleford (Chair)

20 April 2021