

*celebrating diversity:
people, place and purpose*



Australian Rangeland Society
17th Biennial Conference
Kununurra, Western Australia
23-27 September 2012

*Are you ready for Australia's Kimberley
region to inspire you?*

*Are you are a rangeland manager, user or
researcher?*

Then this is the conference for you.!

www.austrangesoc.com.au

enquiry@meetingmasters.com.au



This is the conference for you!

You are invited to the 17th Biennial Conference of the Australian Rangeland Society where you will join a lively mix of natural resource professionals, managers of rangeland for grazing, tourism, conservation and cultural purposes, scientists and students to discuss the rangeland, its use and management.

Rangeland, which make up more than 80 per cent of the Australian continent, has unique values and management issues framed by deep cultural connections, immense scale, precious ecosystems, unforgiving climate and sparse social capital.

Country is intrinsic to Aboriginal peoples and culture. The Australian Rangeland Society recognises the traditional owners of the land on which we will meet. Although Kununurra is a young town it sits on lands that have been significant to Aboriginal people for tens of thousands of years.

Kununurra provides a fitting location for a conference on the theme of *celebrating diversity: people, place and purpose*.



People With a base population of around 5,000 which swells during the dry season, Kununurra's people include traditional owners, farmers, pastoralists, miners, service industry workers and visitors. The town is a focus for economic and social activities throughout the Ord River Catchment.

Place In and around Kununurra you can find ancient and diverse landscapes, waterways, irrigated agriculture, the urban life of a township, biodiversity in abundance, one of the world's biggest diamond mines and outback pastoral stations .

Purpose From pastoralism and agriculture, traditional use and tourism, conservation and resource development.

It's all about the rangeland

Call for papers

Expressions of interest are invited for the presentation of oral and poster papers addressing the theme of *celebrating diversity: people, place and purpose*. Papers for oral presentation will be selected on a competitive basis and all papers will be considered for presentation during poster sessions. Suggested topics are indicative and not restrictive. Case studies of innovative production or organisational systems that address key topics are particularly welcome.

Expressions of interests are due by **Monday 12 March 2012**.

Please send an expression of interest to enquiry@meetingmasters.com.au marking in the "subject" field the words ARS Kununurra. In the body of the message include:

- Title of presentation
- Authors
- Affiliation of first author

- Email address of first author
- Preferred session (up to two)
- Preference for oral or poster presentation
- A paragraph describing the paper's contents

We encourage landholders and tertiary students to participate.

Authors will be advised of acceptance shortly after this date. Completed papers and abstracts will be due in May 2012.

At least one author is expected to attend the conference.

All papers will be available in the conference proceedings, which will be produced in electronic format. A selection of papers from the conference will be reviewed by an editorial panel for inclusion in a themed issue of *The Rangeland Journal*.



Sponsorship opportunities

Please contact conference organiser Ray Bird, at Meeting Masters to obtain a sponsorship prospectus and discuss how your organisations can be involved in this significant national conference. Email enquiry@meetingmasters.com.au

Registration

Delegate registration will be available online at www.austrangesoc.com from May 2012.

Preliminary program

The program provides attendees with a mix of community perspectives, landholder involvement, technical and scientific input. Held in Kununurra in the East Kimberley of Western Australia the program will provide you with an important opportunity to share knowledge, bring different perspectives to current management challenges and discuss shared futures.



At a Glance

| | Sun 23 | Mon 24 | Tue 25 | Wed 26 | Thu 27 |
|----------------|------------------|-----------------------------|---|---|--|
| Day | Registration | Registration Field Trips | Official opening Global trends and impacts Land use planning for multiple users and uses Structured poster viewing | Livestock production in Australian rangeland Land users Q & A forum Structured poster viewing | ARS meeting Understanding rangeland ecosystems and assessing impacts Policy development and implementation in rangeland Summation and close |
| Evening | Welcome function | Barbeque function | Free: guidance will be on hand for galleries and restaurants | Conference dinner at the Hoochery Distillery | |

Sessions will include plenary discussions and 'Q and A' panels of landusers and researchers. No-holds-barred daily musters of key outcomes.

More about

Global trends and impacts

Keynote presentation by an invited international speaker: *The big picture – how global trends in population, energy use, water use and climate impact on rangeland and rangeland users.* Implications for policy development, land use and management, conservation and production. Invited papers on impacts of global trends on Australian rangeland and rangeland use including:

- . Carbon sequestration – opportunities or pipe dreams
- . Climate change and cycles
- . Opportunities for low-input production
- . Biodiversity trends and responses

Land use planning for multiple users and uses

Keynote by WA Department of Planning on the Kimberley land use planning strategy - *accommodating aspirations of different land users and resolving conflicting demands for land.*

Invited papers on:

- . Development issues and projects in the Kimberley recognising its huge variety of landscapes and habitats
- . Opportunities for pastoral, agricultural, tourism and mineral development in the Kimberley and the role of Indigenous people in the management and development of the region
- . Case studies on multiple land use planning and implementation

Livestock production in Australian rangeland

Keynote: *The beef industry in Australia and its future in Australian rangeland.*

Case studies on innovative livestock production systems. Invited papers on:

- . Impacts of fire, climate and grazing pressure on livestock production systems
- . Best practice fire management

Understanding rangeland ecosystems and assessing impacts

Invited papers on developments in understanding of:

- . Functioning of rangeland ecosystems from site to landscape and beyond including water and nutrient flows
- . Assessment and monitoring of impacts on rangeland ecosystems

Policy development and implementation in rangeland

Keynote: *Rangeland reform process in Western Australia.*

Invited papers and presentations on:

- . Developments in rangeland administrative process at regional, state/territory and national levels
- . Addressing public concerns relating to animal welfare, land conservation, safe food and others
- . Resolving water use conflicts



Field trips—September 24

“Kings in Grass Castles”

For those interested in pastoral management. Visit the savanna country and river frontage grasslands of Carlton Hill station, discuss grazing management to meet the needs of different land systems and vegetation types. Explore business strategies to exploit a range of markets and discuss options for increasing productivity.

“Keeping Country”

For those interested in conservation management. Get off the beaten track to see and discuss issues around fire management, biodiversity and Indigenous stewardship. Talk about addressing the challenges of fire, feral animals and weeds in conserving one of the world's biodiversity hotspots and enhancing a timeless culture into a modern era. Discuss techniques based on the melding of new research and traditional Indigenous practices.

“Realising the Northern Dream”

For those interested in agriculture and horticulture. Visit the Ord Stage 2 project to see current developments in irrigated agriculture in northern Australia. See the investment in tropical agriculture, planning and land and water resource development. Discuss the environmental challenges and the issues around delivering a social dividend.

“Experience Extraordinary”

For those interested in tourism. Join a day cruise on the Ord River between Kununurra, the Ord River dam and Lake Argyle. See a plethora of native flora and fauna, and view a massive inland sea from a scenic lookout. See how Australia's largest freshwater lake of 2000 square km² and its unique ecosystem has formed the basis of a tourism economy.

Where to Stay—Book early

All bookings to be made through our conference partner, the **Kununurra Visitor Centre**.

Freecall 1800 586 868

info@visitkununurra.com

www.visitkununurra.com

Accommodation options include:

- Lakeview Apartments (4★) - 1, 2, 3 bedroom apartments
- Lakeside Resort and Caravan Park (3 ½★) - motel and self catering options
- Hotel Kununurra (3 ½★) - rooms
- All Seasons Kununurra (3 ½★) - rooms
- Kununurra Country Club (4★) - apartments, triple rooms, club rooms
- Pinctada Kimberley Grande (4★) - suites and rooms
- Ivanhoe Village Caravan Resort - suites, cabins, powered/ unpowered sites
- Discovery Holiday Park Lake Kununurra – powered sites and villas
- Kimberleyland Holiday Park - powered sites and cabins
- Hidden Valley Tourist Park – powered sites and cabins
- Town Park – powered sites and villas
- Kimberley Croc Backpackers YHA - rooms and dormitories
- Kununurra Backpackers - rooms and dormitories



How to get there

By air

Airnorth from Darwin and Broome
Skywest from Perth and Broome

By road

Darwin — 829km
Broome — 1044km on sealed road (via Fitzroy Crossing and Halls Creek)
Broome — 932km with unsealed road (Gibb River Road)
Alice Springs—1420km with unsealed road (Tanami Track)

