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# News of Friends of Grasslands

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Volume 2 Issue 2

1 February 1998

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## Grasslands and Schools

### Gilmore Primary School

Grasslands Volume 1 Issue 4, 27 June 1995, featured an article on the remnant grassland at Gilmore Primary. To find out how it was going, I made contact with the school.

In 1995 the small remnant of Themeda grassland in the school grounds was being used in an educational program as a demonstration site for all Gilmore's 600 students. Since then the site has not been used by students or teachers. Exotic grasses are now invading this 30x50m patch.

Bill Willis, a Gilmore teacher, thinks this patch is probably too small to maintain as a native grassland. The grass should be burnt or mown to create gaps between the tussocks to encourage small forbs in the spaces. Bill foresees pressures from the school to develop the site into "a more useful area" (It's currently fenced off). He believes that the long term prognosis for the site, lacking a management plan, is poor.

The school grounds are maintained by ACT Parks and Conservation. If the site was to be mown or burnt they would be responsible for this task. The possibility of introduction of weed seeds is a risk associated with mowing.

Never-the-less Bill Willis intends to investigate the possibility of a heritage order on the site. It is one of the few remaining native grasslands in the area.

*Paul Hodgkinson*

### Grassland Revegetation at Cook Primary

Cook PS have an established programme of introduction of native grasses into the

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school grounds. Proposed sites are firstly sprayed with herbicide by City Scape Services, then mulched with pine chips and planted with native trees, shrubs and grasses. Plants are dipped in water gel crystals prior to planting and afterwards receive minimal watering.

Principal Judy Perry said that the programme had been going for about 5 years now and was well supported by the kids. The school established a Landcare group called Cook Primary School Landcare Group in order to attract funding from government agencies. The group has gained about \$10,000 in funding. The main grass species planted has been *Poa labillardieri*, with some *Danthonia* spp. and *Themeda triandra*.

## Grasslands and Landcare Groups

### North Belconnen Landcare Group

Between February 1996 and March 1997, North Belconnen Landcare Group volunteers spent twenty full working Saturdays (8 am - 4 pm) with CityScape tree surgeons and pest control officers removing and chipping mature prickly invasive hawthorns. This partnership made it possi-

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*Grassland should be mown or burnt to create gaps for small forbs between tussocks*

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**Residents now  
have access to  
the creek - first  
time in twenty  
years**

ble for NBLG to clear three kilometres of Ginninderra Creek corridor from the dam wall below Lake Ginninderra, downstream through Evatt, Melba and Flynn. Where hawthorn was removed next to instream willows (*Salix fragilis* and *S. alba* var. *vitellina*), the creek banks were completely bared of vegetation.

The most dramatic transformation of creek bank through woody weed removal (including follow-up cutting and dabbing with roundup) has been the section of creek in Evatt, upstream of Copland Drive, bordered by Sharwood Crescent and Carlyle Street. This section of creek parkland is being concentrated on for restoration work as it is a high user area for pedestrians, cyclists, skateboarders etc.

Residents now have access to the creek for the first time in more than twenty years - previously it was an impenetrable barrier. A greater diversity of waterbirds have been observed visiting the site.

Removal of the hawthorn canopy, however, has stimulated the germination of a seed bank of thistles and other exotics. NBLG has targeted these and the deeply entrenched pasture improvement grass *Phalaris*.

Rather than boom spraying roundup, with its adverse effect on aquatic life downstream and encouragement of further weed invasion, NBLG, with the help of CityScape Services and Green Corp, embarked on slashing, then carpeting with jute underfelt. This has successfully suppressed weeds and kept the soil moist in preparation for planting with native tussock sedges, grasses (*Poa labillardieri*), bottlebrushes (*Callistemon sieberi*) and Casuarinas, all of local provenance. (Where exotics do push through the jute, they are easy to pull up, roots and all). Covering the ground has also prevented the clay soil from turning rock hard during drought conditions making planting not impossible.

Throughout winter and spring 1997, rolls of jute were laid out and two foot long reinforcing steel pegs anchored these and frustrated vandals. Pieces were laid shingle fashion, working upbank and upstream, so that, when Ginninderra Creek floods, they should not lift and wash downstream.

Above the riparian zone *Phalaris* was slashed around the clump plantings of Black Sallee (*Eucalyptus stellulata*), a species adapted to cool, poorly drained conditions. A mixture of understorey shrubs was planted through jute laid around the clumps. These shrubs include *Kunzea*, tea tree and heaths. These will attract a variety of birds - minimising insect attack on eucalypt plantings, creating a more balanced, self-sustaining plant community. The shrubs will also help outcompete *Phalaris*.

Over summer '97-98 NBLG has continued to lay jute and composted hawthorn chips around clumps of planted snow gums on drier, better drained slopes. Between now and autumn the jute will absorb much needed moisture in preparation for planting grevilleas and cassinias in patches around the snow gums. We are hopeful that, with regular slashing and mulching in co-operation with Canberra Urban Parks, *Phalaris* seeding may be prevented.

Further upslope, on the corridor towards residences on Sharwood Crescent, soils become stonier and less fertile. Here patches of remnant native grasses and herbs still thrive, dominated by *Themeda triandra* and *Chysocephalum apiculatum*. Much of this area has been slashed by CityScape as part of the fire management program, exacerbating the introduction and spread of exotic weeds, such as African Lovegrass and Chilean Needle Grass.

CityScape, after negotiation, agreed to set aside a 30 x 50 metre staked out quadrat exempt from mowing. (Paul Hodgkinson has collected some *Themeda* seed from this quadrat to try direct seeding where *Phalaris* has been eradicated). This grassland quadrat could be useful for conservation education.

Mary Ormay

### 1997 Landcare Awards

1997 was a big year for all NBLG volunteers: Convenor Mary Ormay was awarded an individual Landcare award while NBLG was awarded a group Landcare award in the ACT. As finalists they join 81 other groups across Australia for the National

**No herbicides  
used just  
natural jute  
underfelt**

awards to be presented at Parliament House in March.

### Coolleman Ridge Parkcare Group

As well as clearing weeds and planting trees and shrubs, Coolleman Ridge Parkcare Group has been actively working with grasses on the Ridge. In the last quarter of 1997, 160 grasses and 208 herbaceous plants were planted on the Ridge. The Group has obtained seed collecting permits and is hoping to collect grass seeds over the summer. In preparation for this activity, Leon Horsnell led a grass identification walk on the Ridge. The group has prepared a discussion paper on a management plan for the Ridge and is currently obtaining comments from members on this.

### Friends of Mount Painter

The Friends of Mount Painter (FOMP) have been successfully trialling a new weed-slashing machine, called a Weed-Wakka on their largely grassland site, achieving excellent results. These petrol-fueled machines are suspended from a chest-harness and have rotating nylon blades that readily tackle even the thickest of thistles. They are a great improvement on the nylon cord whipper-snipper style of machines. Ken Bailey would be happy to email you a copy of his comparison article: <baileykv@ozemail.com.au>.

### Friends of Aranda Bushland

At the Field Naturalists Association of Canberra meeting of 3 October 1997 Peter Ormay from Friends of Aranda Bushland showed colourful habitat and close-up slides illustrating work from that group's five year project of photographing plants and flowers in what they have called 'Our Patch'. Some shots, particularly of endemic orchids, were stunning.

Environmental grants received had covered the group's outlays up to page-proof stage for an intended A5 publication. Sample pages, even at half final resolution, looked magnificent. But, where were the \$8000 print run costs to come from?

Had they thought of loans from a range of people? Marilyn Evans, coordinator of

FAB, said anyone who could loan them \$100 would qualify for a free copy and return of their loan when sales permitted.

FNAC members, those of Society for Growing Australian Plants and of FAB soon came up with the funds necessary for this fabulous field guide to be published - in time for Christmas! For copies (\$16) please ring Marilyn on 6251 1294 or Jean Geue on 652 1601.

### Umbagog Landcare Group

Umbagog Landcare Group of Latham, North Belconnen, has recently published an illustrated brochure titled "Let's Discover Umbagog District Park" to guide people around the park. The brochure shows trails, points of interest, flora and fauna etc.

The group is also currently involved in preparing a management plan for the areas of remnant native grassland within and adjoining the park. The major area is about 3 hectares and is dominated by Kangaroo Grass (*Themeda triandra*) and also contains Blue Devils (*Eryngium rostratum*). It is monitored by Sarah Sharp and M. Dunford of the ACT Parks and Conservation Service. Unfortunately this land still has not the security of gazettal. Umbagog Landcare Group needs help to ensure its tenure. ACT Greens candidate for Ginninderra, Shane Rattenbury has shown support for the proposed park extension gazettal saying that back in 1993, when the Territory Plan was formulated, preservation of native grasslands was not an important conservation issue but now it is.




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**Remnant  
Umbagog  
grassland  
awaits gazettal  
by  
Government**

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*Incorporation  
sub-committee  
recommends  
members  
accepts  
incorporation*

*Primary  
objective of  
FOG is  
education of its  
members and  
the public*

## FOG Incorporation

Last year the Committee appointed a sub-Committee which recommends: that FOG proceed with incorporation; that Draft Rules - as recommended by the Registrar-General - be adopted with minor amendment. We have set out the proposed Objectives below. We propose that the AGM endorse these.

If interested in making comments or amendments please contact Geoff Robertson.

### Why Should Fog Incorporate?

Almost since its inception, FOG has discussed incorporation. Graeme Evans prepared a draft constitution including a set of values, principles and objectives, and rules.

Incorporation will limit liabilities of members, facilitate grants, and impose financial and other disciplines. FOG will need to file returns with Registrar-General, including audited accounts. There are fees, but benefits clearly outweigh obligations.

Once incorporated, the objectives and rules can be modified at general meetings provided notice is given and amendments are passed by a two thirds majority. The committee will be bound by the objectives and rules, and by resolutions passed at meetings.

### Objectives

These are based on Graeme's, with modifications. The primary objective is education of members and the public.

### Model Rules Versus Draft Constitution

The question was 'Should we adopt the model rules or the inherited draft constitution?' By law nothing in the rules can conflict with the Act.

If an association's rules don't cover a point, the model rules - the benchmark - apply. In view of certain problems with the draft, the sub-Committee recommends the model rules should be adopted with specific exceptions. The draft was detailed and prescriptive, envisaging a national organisation with affiliated regional chapters -

something well beyond our current development as an organisation.

### Amendments to Model Rules

We recommend that the Committee consist of president, vice-president, treasurer, secretary, membership secretary, newsletter editor, and activities co-ordinator, and three ordinary committee members. A person on the committee cannot hold more than one of the following positions: president, vice president, treasurer, secretary and ordinary committee member. This allows some doubling up but keeps within the spirit of the model rules. The committee also recommends a January to December financial year to allow FOG activity planning to fall in with the grass flowering cycle.

*Geoff Robertson*

### What's in a Name?

The draft constitution has the name "Friends of Grassy Eco-systems" (FoGE). The sub-Committee considered that there should not be a name change. "Friends of Grasslands" is now established and says it all.

### An Electronic Presence

Would you ever have guessed it? For the present, you can find FOG on the net at: <http://www.geocities.com/Rainforest/vines/7769> courtesy of webmaster Paul Hodgkinson.

You might also like to look up: <http://www.biodiversity.environment.gov.au/conserva/communit/grasslnd.htm> and Australian Network for Plant Conservation: <http://www.anbg.gov.au/anpc>

### FOG provides submissions on draft ACT action plans

In October last year the ACT Government called for public responses to six draft action plans relating to threatened or endangered species or communities in the ACT. FOG provided submissions on three of these plans, 1 - Natural Temperate Grassland, 2 - Striped Legless Lizard (*Delma impar*), 3 - Grassland Earless Dragon

(*Tympanocryptis lineata pinguicollis* previously known as the Eastern Lined Earless Dragon). All three plans were supported and praised by FOG. They contain a balance of on and off reserve protection both in the short and long term. FOG recommended minor changes to the plans especially in regard to provision of buffer zones around and within reserves. Not all of these recommendations were included in the final action plans, however they still will provide for good conservation outcomes for the species and communities concerned. FOG can continue to lobby for change through its representation on the ACT and National Recovery teams for the Grassland Earless Dragon. As yet we are not represented on the recovery teams for grasslands or the legless lizard. The ACT government has also released draft action plans, 7 - Golden Sun Moth (*Synemon plana*), 8 - Button Wrinklewort (*Rutidosis leptorrhynchoides*), 9 - Small Purple Pea (*Swainsona recta*). Of course FOG will be providing submissions on these plans as well. Contact Art Langston (02) 6258-1032 for more information.

### Field Visit and Meeting

Thursday 5 February 1998

"Regenerating native grasslands" with Sarah Sharp:

1. Picnic tea, then Field visit. Meet at the National Museum site at Yarramundi Reach at 5.30pm for a light (and brief) picnic tea.

Around 6pm Sarah will lead a walk around her grasslands burn site. Here she has been controlling exotic grasses such as Wild Oats and promoting native grasses such as Kangaroo Grass.

2. Meeting, 8pm, ANU BoZo Building, Linnaeus Way - Sarah will show slides and talk about her grasslands work on various sites.

We are the invited guests of the Field Naturalists Association on this evening. Enquiries to Philip Bell: tel/fax/ans.mach. (02) 6253 1117; Email: pmbell@pcug.org.au

### Special Seminar

"Southern African Botanical Diversity Network (SABONET): A Regional Capacity-

Building Programme" by Christopher Willis, SABONET Coordinator. Hosted by: The Australian Network for Plant Conservation

Monday 9 February 12.30 - 1.30 followed by refreshments. Australian National Botanic Gardens Theatre (opposite the Visitor Information Centre)

The program will also include:

- a brief update on the ANPC by Jeanette Mill, National Coordinator
- a brief update on the Action Plans for Protecting ACT's Threatened Species by Sarah Sharp, Senior Plant Ecologist and Grasslands Project Officer, Wildlife Research and Monitoring, Environment ACT

Please RSVP by Thursday 5 February:  
Jeanette Mill National Co-ordinator  
Australian Network for Plant Conservation  
GPO Box 1777 Canberra ACT 2601 Ph:  
(02) 62 509 509 Fax: (02) 62 509 599  
Email: jmill@anbg.gov.au

### CIT Courses

CIT Solutions Adult Committee Education Program is offering a number of courses that might be of interest to FOG members: Bush regeneration (with Alison Elvin) This course outlines the principles of plant ecology, species identification, regeneration techniques, species and communities, sole conservation techniques and management. Starts Saturday 9 May, 10am-4pm for 4 weeks, \$175.

How to identify plants (with Ann Myers) an introduction to botany, plant morphology and the use of keys to identify plants in the ACT. Starts Tuesday 3 March, 6-9pm for three weeks, \$105.

There are a number of other courses in this area, such as The xeriscape garden-be water wise, Plant propagation for home gardener, and Wetland ecology.

Enquires:

Phone: (02) 6207 4444 or (02) 6207 4441

Fax: (02) 6207 4343

Email: cit.solutions@cit.act.edu.au

### Auditor needed

Art Langston, our treasurer would appreci-

*Draft Action Plans provide for a balance of on and off reserve protection*

*Field visit and Slide show with Sarah Sharp on 5 February*

### **Forthcoming FOG conference in May**

ate a call from any FOG member who could help us with auditing our accounts. Any one with account experience who would like to help out please call Art on (02) 6258 1032.

### **FOG Conference**

This year the FOG conference will be in the form of a one day workshop. The workshop, titled "Development of Native Grasslands - How to Resolve the Conflicts", will be held in Canberra in late May. Many people are interested in using native grasslands. Some for conservation, some for production, some for development - both urban and rural. These differing interests often cause conflict between stakeholders and in the past this conflict has not been managed well. To avoid this in the future we are inviting a number of stakeholders to share their values of native grasslands in a workshop environment. Sessions will be organised as panel forums. In each session key representatives of stakeholder groups will give a short presentation followed by an open forum where people attending the workshop can discuss or question the topics covered by the speakers. In the final session, an open discussion of development issues, we hope to find ways in which stakeholders can approach future developments to avoid conflict and allow outcomes that are amenable to all. Details of the workshop will be available shortly, but in the meantime place a note in your diary. Contact Art Langston (02) 6258 1032 for more information.

### **Calculating the production value of native grasslands**

In an interesting project across New South Wales and Victoria Jim Crosthwaite from the University of Melbourne is calculating the economic value of grassland pasture on grazing properties. Jim is looking at properties where grasslands are integral to grazing operations as well as grasslands that are used to minimise land degradation. He hopes to develop a number of simple computer models that will help farm managers assess the contribution of their native grassland to long term profitability. They will also assist them manage stock and pasture to maximise long term sustainability

by short term changes in farming procedures. For more information contact Jim Crosthwaite (03) 9344 5008, [j.crosthwaite@agriculture.unimelb.edu.au](mailto:j.crosthwaite@agriculture.unimelb.edu.au).

### **Correspondence**

A letter was sent on 17 November 1997 to Bill Stefaniak, Gary Humphries and Bishop George Browning concerning the unauthorised mowing of native grassland at St Mark's National Theological Centre in Barton on 3 November.

Here is the letter:

I would like to draw to your personal attention a crisis in the management of a prime grassland in Canberra:

The native grassland at St Mark's National Theological Centre is a botanically diverse remnant containing two endangered species: *Rutidosia leptorhynchoides* (Button Wrinklewort) and *Synemon plana* (Golden Sunmoth). The site also contained a profusion of native orchids, the wilful destruction of any one of which is legally subject to heavy fines. This is/was one of the few primary grasslands in excellent condition. It is for this reason that Environment ACT's Wildlife and Monitoring Unit has given it the highest possible priority in conservation importance: One.

The St Mark's Grassland, also known as the Tent of Meeting Grassland, is managed jointly by St Mark's National Theological Centre and Environment ACT. The Friends of Grasslands have only recently taken on a custodial role for the site. We hold meetings at St Mark's. It was particularly distressing for our members, therefore, to see the grassland mown at the peak of its flowering.

There is currently no fence around the site. Thus access by unwanted intruders is an issue. Previous damage by vandals on wheels, though regrettable, has been bearable but the latest destruction by a contractor is deplorable.

In order to prevent further potential damage FOG asks the ACT Government immediately to arrange for and fund the con-

### **Study aims to calculate the economic value of native grasslands on grazing properties**

struction of a low log barrier fence for this critical site.

Given the aims of our organisation, we cannot do other than describe the destructive mowing in our forthcoming newsletter (due end December to early January). We would request written confirmation, however, before going to press, please, that the ACT Government has authorised and time-tabled construction of the essential fence.

Yours sincerely

signed Paul Hodgkinson  
FOG secretary

The reply from Gary Humphries:

I refer to your letter of 17 November 1997 concerning the mowing of native grassland at St Mark's National Theological Centre in Barton, a copy you also sent to my colleague Mr Stefaniak. As this issue falls within my portfolio, I am responding on behalf of the Government.

I share your concern that a site of ecological significance has been subject to management intervention that is contrary to agreed guidelines. I am advised that the primary reason for the incident was a misunderstanding by contracted staff of the extent of mowing scheduled for adjacent government land. As privately leased land, the St Mark's grassland area should not have been subject to contractor activity.

A lack of clear boundary definition seems to have contributed to the problem and I note your request that log barriers be installed to assist with management of access generally.

I am informed that Canberra Urban Parks (Department of Urban Services) has responsibility for management of the urban open space adjacent to the mown grassland. Canberra Urban Parks has agreed to install log barriers at the grassland site boundary, subject to agreement by St Mark's as leasee of the site and the provision of appropriate access for site management. The work is programmed for completion by the end of January 1998.

I have also taken steps to ensure that special management requirements for native grass-

lands generally are reinforced with staff and contractors responsible for management of urban open space.

Thank you for bringing these matters to my attention.

Yours sincerely

signed Gary Humphries MLA  
Minister for the Environment, Land and Planning

### In the Mail

Copies of the following can be borrowed from the secretary:

Bogong Journal of the Canberra and Southeast Region Environment Centre  
Vol 18, no 4 Summer 1997-98

Planning and Land Management Newsletter No 47 October/November 1997  
No 48 December 1997

Land and Water News  
Vol 1 No 8 November 1997

Brooks Hill Reserve Management Plan  
November 1997

Dantonia Newsletter of the Australian Network for Plant Conservation  
Vol 6 No 3 December 1997

Grass Clippings  
A newsletter of the Grassy Ecosystem Reference Group and other happenings in native grasslands and grassy woodlands.  
No 6 Decembert 1997

ANIC News  
The official newsletter of the Australian National Insect Collection, CSIRO Entomology No. 11 October 1997

Draft Action Plans for Gloden Sun Moth, Button Wrinklewort and Small Purple Pea.  
Draft for public comment December 1997

### Next Meeting

Barbeque and AGM  
Saturday 7 March 1998  
Dierk and Rosemary von Behrens

*Log barriers to be installed at St Mark's grassland by late January*

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(continued from page 7)

121 Springvale Drive, Weetangera ACT  
6 pm BYO meat/vegetable patties and drinks.  
Bread, salad and dessert provided.  
Please RSVP by 5 March.

**AGM Notice of Motion**

"This AGM resolves that Friends of Grasslands apply for Incorporation under the ACT Associations Incorporations Act (1991)....towards this end this AGM agrees to adopt the objectives and constitution outlined in (this) newsletter Vol 2 Issue 2 and available from the President, Geoff Robertson, from February 1998."

Copies of the constitution and objectives will also be available at the AGM.

NB. All Committee positions will be declared vacant at the AGM and nominations for president, vice-president, treasurer, secretary, membership secretary, newsletter editor, and activities co-ordinator, and three ordinary committee members are hereby requested. Please email or post to the secretary (no special form required) by end February. Your participation is strongly encouraged.



FRIENDS OF GRASSLANDS  
PO Box 987 Civic Square ACT 2608



## **VALUES, PRINCIPLES, FUNCTIONS AND OBJECTIVES**

### **VALUES AND PRINCIPLES**

- (1) The values and principles relating to grassy ecosystems which the organisation seeks to promote are:
- (a) grassy ecosystems are an important part of global biological diversity;
  - (b) globally, natural grasslands, despite being one of the earth's major vegetation types, are in a very poor state;
  - (c) the importance of grassland species and grassy ecosystems is understated and undervalued;
  - (d) this is likely to continue unless there is intervention to arrest and to rectify the situation;
  - (e) raising the interest and knowledge of communities and governments is fundamentally important;
  - (f) arresting the alarming decline of grassy ecosystems and grassland species is both an ethical and practical obligation;
  - (g) all species existing in the context of their natural environment or persisting in an altered environment have a right to continued existence and to continuing evolution.
- (2) In all its activities and dealings with individuals and organisations, Friends of Grasslands Inc. should reflect principles of mutual respect, open communication, membership involvement, human diversity, non-discrimination and non-harassment.

### **FUNCTIONS**

- (1) The broad function of the organisation is to take all possible steps and measures to uphold the values and to pursue the principles set out in the preceding clause, and to seek their application throughout Australia and, where practicable, more widely.
- (2) The specific functions of the organisation are:
- (a) to halt and reverse the decline of grassy ecosystems; and
  - (b) to give particular attention to doing this in Australia; and
  - (c) in this regard, to give special attention to areas, zones or issues identified as priorities by the organisation from time to time.

### **OBJECTIVES**

- (1) The objectives to be pursued by the organisation in the undertaking of these functions include those objectives set out in the following subclause relating to -
- (a) education;
  - (b) contributions to hands-on conservation and management of specific areas and species.
  - (c) lobbying and other forms of participation in political and administrative processes and the like;
  - (d) liaison and research;
  - (e) legislation and planning;
  - (f) standards of behaviour.
- (2) The specific objectives to be pursued include:
- (a) in relation to education, to develop and implement education programs, in relation to knowledge and understanding of grassy ecosystems, which are directed at -
    - (i) informing and enriching members of Friends of Grasslands Inc. and the wider community; and

(ii) informing both individuals and organisations, including other conservation organisations;

(b) in relation to hands-on conservation and area/species management -

(i) to support and uphold the principle of self help by human communities in relation to the protection and re-establishment of grassy ecosystems as an adjunct to, and in support of, such action by both official agencies and the private sector;

(ii) to encourage members of the organisation to participate in such practical grasslands management;

(iii) to identify and promote regimes and operational guidelines for individual and group participation in practical grasslands management.

(c) in relation to lobbying and analogous activities -

(i) to monitor measures proposed by, or taken by, governments, ecological authorities and others and to take all practicable steps to ensure such measures are consistent with the values and principles set out above;

(ii) to identify policies and regimes which would further these values and principles and to work to achieve their application by both the public and private sectors;

(iii) to utilise the media and other intermediaries vigorously in these regards; and

(iv) change, wherever necessary, the values and behaviours of those who have powers relevant to the well being of grassy ecosystems and those who influence such persons;

(d) in relation to liaison and research -

(i) to facilitate identification and addressing of the principle causes of the decline of grassy ecosystems, including population pressure and resource consumption;

(ii) to affiliate with relevant national and local environmental, ecological, planning, legal, educational, aesthetic and scientific organisations and to actively participate in their work;

(iii) to affiliate or cooperate with such other organisations as would assist in the pursuit of these objectives;

(e) in relation to legislation and planning -

(i) to ensure that adequate and appropriate legislative, policy and planning measures exist to protect grasses, grasslands and grassy ecosystems;

(ii) to identify and rectify laws, policies and planning processes detrimental to grassy ecosystems;

(iii) to ensure that proper and comprehensive laws are in place to protect grassy ecosystems; and

(f) in relation to standards of behaviour -

(i) recognise and show respect and tolerance for the views of individuals and organisations in the conduct of the organisations affairs and communications;

(ii) ensure that the organisation, or its members, do not discriminate against, or in any way harass, individuals and, to the contrary, recognise the richness of human diversity and the contribution each individual may make in his or her own way;

(iii) promote open communications and membership participation in the decisions and activities of the organisation; and

(iv) encourage these values in its members.