



# Mid Lachlan Landcare Grazing Group

## Closed Season Grazing Planning Field Day

Mid Lachlan Landcare Grazing Group held a Closed Season Grazing Planning Field Day on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2013 at 'Oatleigh' Canowindra, with special guest speaker Dick Richardson. The field day was well attended with 53 participants from the surrounding districts and even as far as Merriwa. The field day highlighted how planning during a closed season provides peace of mind, allowing flexibility and clear decision making, leading into and during a non-growth period.

Participants were informed about the importance of planning for a closed season through stock control or stock flow, and grass feed budgeting. Grass feed budgeting estimates grass availability on the farm using the STAC (Sole Toe Ankle Calf) Method, which permits landholders to quickly assess grass quantities by walking through their available paddocks and measuring grass height and volume to obtain critical information on how long the feed will last. This enables landholders to match their stocking rate to their carrying capacity and help plan for future management decisions.



Assessing grass in the paddock

In his presentation, Dick highlighted the importance of fodder quality and provided some interesting suggestions and advice on how landholders can maximise the nutrition value of different feed types during the closed season. His suggestions when undertaking closed season planning include:

- Assess how much grass or feed you have available to you
- What else will be using the feed apart from your livestock? i.e. Kangaroos, termites, rabbits, birds
- How long does the feed have to last?
- Conduct a stock control or stock flow in order to match the correct stocking rate to carrying capacity during the closed season
- Match the correct class of livestock to the quality and quantity of available feed



Dick Richardson presenting to landholders at the field day

The day also provided a paddock demonstration on how to use the STAC Method, the opportunity to see and compare the value of different types of fodder, and also gave landholders the chance to share information and valuable experiences on all facets of grazing management.



The paddock demonstration on how to use the STAC Method

Mid Lachlan Landcare Grazing would like to thank everyone for their attendance and a special thanks to Dick for making the day a success. We hope to hold an Open Season Grazing Planning Field Day in the near future and will keep you informed.

If you would like any further information please feel free to contact Scott Hickman on 0427450416 or on [oatleigh@westnet.com.au](mailto:oatleigh@westnet.com.au)