

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

The Trustees of the AW Howard Memorial Trust met as a committee on 20 April 2023 and 23 November 2023. Advice was considered from the Trust's Research sub-committee on the awarding of Grants, Scholarships and Research Fellowships.

Nine applications were received for a **Travel Grant** of up to \$7,500 and all were awarded.

Name	Institution	Travel Grant Details
Alicia Quinn	Monash University	Plant Biology 2023 – annual meeting of the American Society of Plant Scientists (ASPB) and Visit to Professor John Mullet
Brad Wintle	University of WA	The XXV International Grassland Congress in Covington Kentucky
Danica Parnell	University of Sydney	International Grasslands Congress XXV: Grassland for soil, animal, and human health, Kentucky USA
Estelle Grundy	University of Queensland	The 15th European Nitrogen Fixation Conference (ENFC)
Georgina Stagg	Murdoch University	15th European Nitrogen Fixation Conference, Naples, Italy and visit two research laboratories at University of Florence and Aarhus University
Gereltsetseg Enkhbat	University of WA	A study tour to the USA to attend the XXV International Grassland Congress and visit different pasture legume farming systems
Jed Brown	La Trobe University	A study tour to the USA to attend the XXV International Grassland Congress and visit different pasture legume farming systems
Laura Goward	UTAS/CSIRO	Australian Grasslands Association Inc Symposium
Yuhan Liu	University of Queensland	15th European Nitrogen Fixation Conference (ENFC), Italy; visit to two international labs

The value of the Travel Grant was increased to \$7,500 in 2023.

Four applications were received for an **Early-Career Research Grant** of up to \$15,000 and one was awarded.

Name	Institution	Details
Stephanie Watts-Fawkes	University of Adelaide	Do beneficial soil fungi reduce the accumulation of toxic PFAS in pasture legumes?

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Two applications were awarded for a **Grant-in-Aid** of up to \$5,000 and both were awarded.

Name	Institution	Details
Rob Shea	Perennial Pasture Systems	Commission two papers to be presented by the authors at the 14th Annual PPS Conference to be held Ararat Victoria on September 5th, 2023
Ross Ballard	SARDI	Assist with the publication of a book dealing with the history of nitrogen fixation research in Australia and its enormous benefit to Australian agriculture

Honours-Masters Scholarship

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

Name	Institution	Details
Miles Ellery	Curtin University of Technology	Taking the piss? How wastewater-derived struvite can supplement conventional phosphate fertiliser to manage pasture productivity
Natalie Roberts	Federation University Australia	Seed longevity and germination ecology of four populations of the invasive species 'Indian Couch' (<i>Bothriochloa pertusa</i> L.), related to pasture health in Queensland
Tom Cowan	University of Qld	Optimising the use of integrated control options for giant rat's tail grass: A case study on flupropanate selectivity and wick wiper application
Cristina Burriolo	Murdoch University	Energisation of N ₂ Fixation in <i>Mesorhizobium ciceri</i> CC192
Joseph Shaw	University of WA	Analysis of the benefits of adopting new technology to harvest subterranean clover

Research Fellowship

Three applications were received for an AW Howard Research Fellowship and one was awarded. The Fellowship is valued at \$15,000 per annum until the completion of the candidate's PhD for a maximum of 3½ years.

Name	Institution	Details
Rebecca Cotton	University of Qld	How can industry better engage with land holders and pastoralists in social change, in order to improve outcomes with the transition to renewable energy?

The value of the Fellowship was increased to \$15,000 per annum (for up to 3.5 years) in 2023.

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Tim Healey Scholarship

Fifteen 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
Finn Parker	University of Sydney	Messing with their minds: manipulating animal behaviour to improve vertebrate pest management
Ibrahim Ahmad	University of Tasmania	Biochar-Bromoform interactions in the rumen
Zali Mahoney	University of Qld	Integrated disease management of Alternaria black core rot in citrus

Howard Medal and Oration

The next Agronomy conference will be held in WA in 2024. It was agreed that this is the best forum for the medal presentation and oration.

AIA-AUASA Student Compendium

Sponsorship for 2 years (\$1350) plus 2/3 page advertisement.

Executive Officer

Jo Slade has retired and the role has been filled by Alison Boyd, SARDI.

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 2023.

Peter Appleford (Chair)

18 April 2024

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