



INSIDE OUTSIDE MANAGEMENT

Balancing the **INSIDE** and the **OUTSIDE** of your business

Newsletter 2
April 2006

Hello All,

Many changes have happened since our first newsletter. We are now on the Web and you can visit us at www.insideoutsidemgt.com.au. Please have a look. We hope all of you who have attended our training are steaming ahead with Holistic Management practices. If anyone has encountered a sticky patch please do not hesitate to contact us, even if it is just for a chat. Remember, too, we do hold **Review days** as support for those managing holistically. We also offer clients the opportunity to re - attend any of the [Holistic Management practitioner training](#) modules at a reduced cost.



The other big change for us is that **INSIDE OUTSIDE MANAGEMENT Pty Ltd** and 22 other professional businesses with rural and related industry experience have formed a partnership called the [Rural Results Group](#). The "Rural Results Group Pty Ltd" is a registered company which has been established to improve the quality of training and consultancy on offer, by collaborating, co-operating and sharing expertise and information. The company was launched on Friday 15th July 2005 in Toowoomba.

"Never be afraid to try something new.
Remember, amateurs built the Ark.
Professionals built the Titanic!!"
... unknown

Training

We have also been successful in our tender to bring training to a group of Maranoa primary producers through Landcare and the **Queensland Murray Darling Catchment council**. We are waiting for Landcare to organise the project so we can roll out the training. This will be a three year project and will be monitored by both Landcare and the QMDC.

We are half - way through a full [Holistic Management practitioner training](#) at Wallaroo, a 70 000 acre property north of Roma, owned by Geoff Fearnside. Geoff has built a learning centre at Wallaroo and we christened it with its first school. We have a good mix of enterprises attending the nine day course, with an organic business as well as cattle and goat producers and a representative from the QMDC. The facilities are tremendous and the property has an amazing number of stunning features which we have been lucky enough to take in whilst talking soil surface, monitoring, grazing and cattle and the rest!



Prior to that, we ran a nine - day school at Mitchell in the CWA hall, generously catered for by the ladies of that establishment. Once again, a good mix of livestock and large - scale cropping enterprises made it an interesting school. Many of the participants were related so discussions on values were lively and there was lots of laughter.

We've all benefited from the input of Brian Marshall, a Holistic Management Educator from New South Wales, at our last two schools.

Two **stand - alone three - day [Holistic Grazing Planning®](#) training modules** were run last year. The first was held at the Landcare office in Warwick, and the second at the Freestone CWA hall. Both were very successful and participants finished the training, confident in the use of grazing and animal impact as a tool and how to set about the grazing chart. We are seeing a greater demand for this training and held the first 2006 stand - alone [Holistic Grazing Planning®](#) module last month in Warwick.



Training Diary

Holistic Management practitioner training

Monto

Module 1: 2006 May 12, 13, 14

Module 2: 2006 May 26, 27, 28

Module 3: 2006 June 17, 18, 19

Holistic Grazing Planning® training is being organised for **Chinchilla** and **Oakey**. Details will be posted on our website.

On the home front – ‘Sunnyholt’, Arcadia Valley

Sunnyholt is under siege at the moment from the elements; we have had weeks of incredibly hot weather which have sucked every last drop of moisture from the soil and grass. Looking at the grazing chart we have been stuck at a maximum recovery period of 120 days for the whole of the growing season and even so our monitoring cages have shown what little recovery growth has occurred has been insufficient. The 33mm of rain that has fallen since December is just not enough to kick - start any sort of growth event in the grass. Having said that, the soil surface in most paddocks continues to look reasonable and if any rain falls between now and the season end we will make maximum use of it.

The cattle have been faring a lot better—even though there has been no finishing-off feed the animals have continued to gain between 600 and 700 g per day. Having hung on for some relief we bit the bullet and sent off 8 decks to the feed lot and 4 decks to the works. The slaughtered animals all weighed well and just squeaked home with enough fat. There are another 350 steers all up at the 550 kg mark; we hope they gain enough fat in the remaining 30 days, to send the majority of them off to the works. We normally get some meaningful winter rain which we will be counting on to carry the large mob of weaners due soon from the breeding block out west. We will be keeping our fingers crossed!

On the domestic front, our eldest, Talya, has survived her first term as a boarder in Toowoomba (I cannot say the same for the parents!) and appears to have blossomed with the experience. We almost had a small avocado farm in our grasp, just north of Toowoomba, but this unfortunately fell through at the last minute. We are still looking for some opportunity to get us closer to civilisation!

Regards,

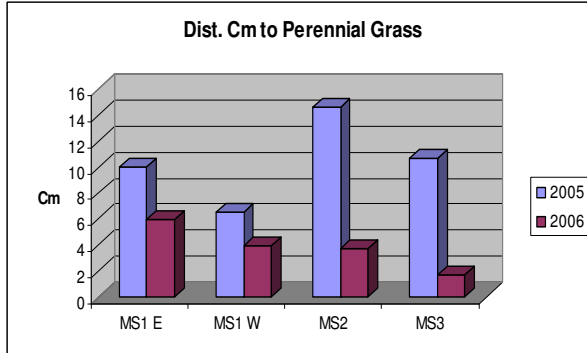
Brian Wehlburg

On the home front – ‘Montrose’, Warwick

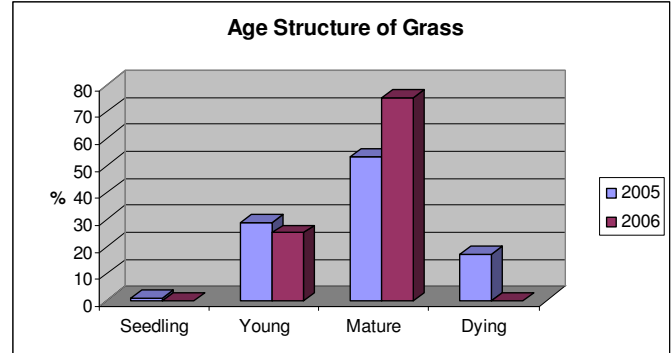
Montrose had a terrific spring; however February and March were quite dry, so we have amazing standing feed, without enough mouths to eat it. We have been looking for agistment

cattle but they seem slim on the ground; however with 2 inches in the last week and the standing feed, winter isn't looking too bad.

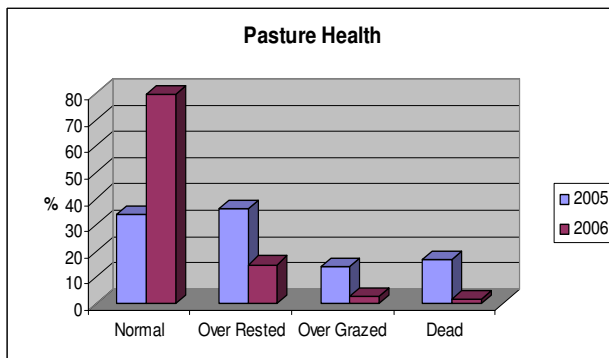
We have done our annual monitoring and we were pleasantly surprised with the changes that have occurred in just a year.



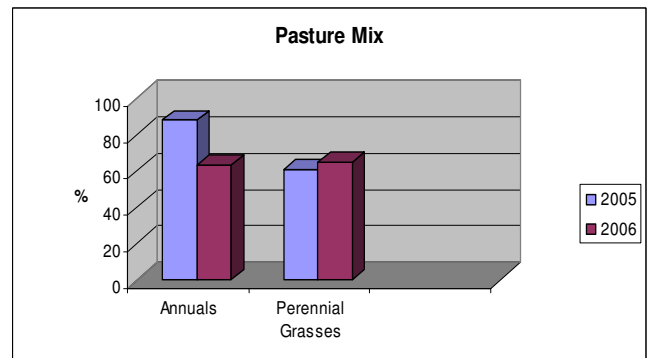
The reduction of plant spacing from 14 to 4cm is a great result.



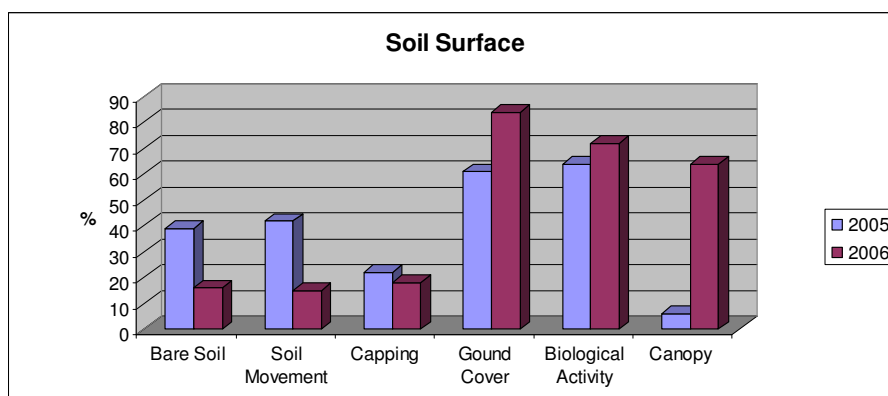
The reduction in dying grass is good news. However, we would like to see more seedlings.



The numbers of over rested and over grazed plants has dropped significantly



The movement from annuals to perennials is a sign that our ecosystem processes are improving.



We were very excited to see this. Our ground cover has increased to over 80% while our bare ground has halved, with a correlating reduction in soil movement. The fact that there has been little change in the percentage capping indicates a need to increase the use of the tool of animal impact.

At home, some big decisions have been made towards our goal and some changes are in motion with Ian working towards a career in satellite mapping and surveying along with his contracting work. We will be involved with Montrose with our livestock on agistment there, which we'll develop overtime. I will be formalising my project management work into qualifications in the next six months, so I can do project work using the HM process, here and overseas. I am also working on a proposal to take to company boards, which will assist with their decision making and transparency to shareholders through the HM process.

It is so good having our holistic goal as a constant to check towards with change and new opportunities that present themselves everyday.

Best wishes,

Helen Lewis.

Holistic 'Stuff'

- On August 8, 2005, an article on Coombing Park, owned and run by George King, a Holistic Management Practitioner was published in the Sydney Morning Herald. To read it, visit our website.
- Recently, Brian W spent an interesting afternoon with Bruce Alchin, a lecturer in pasture and rangeland utilisation with UQ at Gatton. With his kind permission we have posted some of his relevant research on our website for your interest. Many of you who are crop farmers have been worried about compaction from higher density grazing and will be pleased to note that, in his research, soil compaction decreased under these practices. Visit the Inside Outside Management website.

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