“People act on things they understand, hence the need to promote better understanding instead of just information.” (Alan Lauder)

I first met Alan Lauder in 1994 while working as a journalist with Queensland Country Life. I had been engaged to spread the message about Alan’s on-property research into practical ways of regenerating grazing paddocks and reducing the effect of drought. This research was a $272,000 Drought Regional Initiative project the Commonwealth Government invited him to apply for.

Alan’s contributions to knowledge regarding the way livestock and plants interact in the environment have been remarkable. Alan was one of thousands of primary producers yet he stood out because he was incredibly observant ...a student of the landscape.

Alan has spent an enormous amount of time and investment in understanding these issues and he is ahead of his time. He is innovative, determined and professionally generous in sharing his knowledge. In the years to come there will be a debt of gratitude as his insights are taken up by extension programs.

James Nason
Joint owner of Beef Central

Hi Alan,

Thanks for the various discussions we have had over some time now in relation to the impacts and understanding of Carbon Flows and its relevance to the dynamics of land management and productivity.
As discussed the University of Queensland through its Vocational Education Centre based at Gatton (G-VEC) is currently developing a new approach for Agricultural programs focused toward the ‘Applied Sciences and new Technologies’ at the Diploma and Advanced Diploma levels. The content and curriculum of the new model will be delivered over three years to incorporate the Certificate level to the Advanced Diploma. It is primarily within the Diploma and Advanced Diploma curriculum that some teaching around the issues of Carbon Management and Carbon Flows will be approached to ensure graduates are technically capable to make informed decisions regarding management practices.

Our review of your work and content to date illustrates a sound and practical interpretation of the information available to assist either students or practitioners to attain fundamental concepts and applications to incorporate best management practices.

We anticipate the new programs to commence in 2014 and will be discussing with you at a later date with regards to your materials. We understand that for many years you have dedicated your efforts towards this area and this level of knowledge would be of a great assistance in the educational arena to better prepare our future practitioners in Agriculture.

I am sure that your efforts will be recognised both from industry and Government and with our approaches to similar structures I anticipate that clarity will be attainable for those who seek sound principles to assist the decision making process.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at any time.

Best Regards,

Mark
Alan’s work is an excellent example of:

1. A grazier taking ownership of the science and writing in his own words – this is how scientists operate!

2. Holistic approach bringing together many scientific disciplines – very hard for a scientist to do, but a grazier must do it to be successful

3. Systems analysis understanding
   - flows not just stocks
   - very hard to think and observe unless you have the model in your head – Alan Lauder does!

4. The book is a group of hypotheses based on experience
   - they can be modelled and tested
   - good science

5. The book is a blend of observation and scientific enquiry and brings together fragments in an organised way

6. A revolution in thought – future graziers will see themselves as “managers of carbon”

*Communication by CRC scientist Dr Greg McKeon (lead author of Qld Govt publication, Pasture Degradation And Recovery In Australia’s Rangelands – learning from history) to Dr John Williams (former head of CSIRO Land and Water) on the day (6/12/2008) John launched the Carbon Grazing book at Brisbane City Hall.*
The Alan Lauder I know

Alan Lauder was our neighbour for about 30 years. Alan came home and took over the management of his family property after his father died prematurely. We worked alongside each other over this time and became good friends, even though there was very strong competition between ourselves and all other graziers, to have the best flock of sheep/cattle and grow the best fleece.

It didn’t take long for Alan to start making a name for himself as a quality sheep breeder, wool grower. He turned a handy flock into one of the best in Queensland. His sheep reached the finals in the State Flock Ewe Competition for six consecutive years gaining two firsts, two seconds and a third. Such was the recognition of the quality of his commercial sheep that his winning ewes were put on display at the Riverina Field Days in NSW.

While running the property he became a woollen garment manufacturer, producing the first guaranteed prickle free jumper. He supplied David Jones and Country Road.

Alan soon realised he had to keep his flock of sheep in top condition to maintain excellent wool production, so he began studying drought strategies. As usual everything was studied in depth, from stocking rates to joining times and the conservation of fodder in the paddocks.

He always loved the challenge of solving problems and always very thorough in analysing before acting.

Saltbush was his first most successful project in this area after Canberra became aware of his theories. It was whilst studying saltbush and how it grows in dry areas, that Alan became aware of the vitally important effect of carbon and the relevance to managing and regenerating the grazing landscape. Alan has always had the ability to analyse and research in extreme depth any project he has taken on and Carbon Grazing more so than any other. This determined approach to achieving his goals, I believe, has made him a leader in his field and ahead of his time.

Over time the public will realise just how important his message has been. I hope for the country’s sake they take note.

Geoff Dunsdon

Nulla Pastoral
Nulla Ag
Yallambee Station,
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Ph: (07) 4655 2144
Email: yallambee@bigpond.com
2 March 1995

Mr AR Lauder
"Woodstock"
CUNNAMULLA QLD 4490

Dear Mr Lauder


We refer to our previous telephone conversations and confirm that it is the intention of the Queensland Rural Adjustment Authority to nominate you and your property for the above mentioned award.

We have enclosed details of the program for your information and thank you for your willingness to be nominated for your land and soil conservation efforts.

Yours faithfully

[Signature]

CR HOLDEN
Manager
Queensland Rural Adjustment Authority

mf

(51.ltr)
To whom it may concern

I have known Allan Lauder for several years in a professional capacity. I managed a government program that Allan was involved in, I participated in a field day that he organised as part of that program and I am in regular contact with him by telephone.

He is known to a number of senior officers in this Department. I believe they would share my view that Allan is a dedicated, capable and professional businessman who has a strategic interest in the development of his industry. To achieve this he has tackled both the science and the attitudes that prevail in the industry.

He has impressed this Department with his straightforward approach to problem solving and the enthusiasm and energy he has applied to it. I have reason to believe he also is also treated with respect and has credibility with the scientific community he has come in contact with.

Allan has the capacity to relate to and communicate with farmers, the scientific community and bureaucrats.

I have found Allan to have personal qualities of honesty, including intellectual honesty, and reliability, and he is well organised and personable.

I believe he would be able to work with any organisation and add value to its work.

Michael Wilson
Assistant Secretary
Food and Agribusiness Policy Branch
13 March 1999
TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

On 30/9/97 I carted the "Woodstock" cattle that topped Queensland for 12 months to Dalby.

Because they were better than the channel country cattle I was carting, I phoned Dalgety on my satellite phone. The buyers were waiting for them because they had an order to fill.

I transported the "Woodstock" wether weaners when they were weaned off their mothers and, there is not a lot of difference in the lambs after dry spells.

Over the years I have noticed that the stock numbers on "Woodstock" do not increase in the good years like some. At the same time they do not decrease in the dry years. I guess one could assume from this that "Woodstock" is a very consistent property and of a very high standard with stock to match.

Yours faithfully,

Bill Hickey
Grower leading campaign for DIY marketing

By JAMES NASON

Eight years of watching wool markets collapse and hearing that recovery is just around the corner has taught Don Dunston one thing, it is this: “If growers want things to change, they have to get off their backsides and do it themselves.”

The Cunnamulla woolgrower, who is spearheading a bold grassroots campaign to restore marketing control to growers, attributes the woes of the 1990s to an elitist attitude from industry leaders and an apathetic one from its grower base.

“If wool is to ever recover, it must streamline its management and make it accountable for its decisions with radical changes in the marketing and the handling of our wool,” Mr Dunston said.

“It has a perfect example to follow if it wanted to by simply copying the cotton industry, where they have their gin in the production area and their marketing is done through long-term forward contracts.”

Mr Dunston believes that for the wool industry to survive it must develop worthwhile forward contracts with processors, and streamline the handling of wool flows from the woolshed through to establish a wool storage, testing and marketing depot in Cunnamulla, which it is hoped will enable direct linkages between Queensland woolgrowers and processors and provide greater control over wool selling.

Basing the facility in the heart of Queensland woolgrowing country, Outback Wool supporters say it will save growers the unnecessary handling costs of the present wool selling system.

And at the same time, it will hand growers the means to collectively market their wool from a central base.

More than 90 percent of the wool produced in Queensland comes from properties at least 300km away from Brisbane, but virtually all has to be transported to the city because that is where the only industry accredited testing facilities are based.

Mr Dunston believes a Cunnamulla based facility will save most western growers more than $20/bale, solely by eliminating unnecessary freight costs to Brisbane.

This saving will stay in the regional areas.

Geographically Cunnamulla is the gateway to southern markets for Queensland wool, but the

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Alan Lauder
A CUNNAMULLA woolgrower whose innovative work on pasture management and wool production to boost profitability has generated a $272,000 Government funded research project and a nomination for the McKell Award (Australia’s highest national Landcare honour). Mr Lauder has funnelled his wool into Australia’s first guaranteed prickle free jumper, now being sold under his own label “Bodywool” in city stores.

Don Compagnoni
CURRENTLY juggling four full time jobs - president of the UGA’s Queensland Sheep and Wool Council, Queensland’s executive member on Wool Council of Australia, president of the UGA’s Maranoa division and running his mixed grazing and farming property at Mitchell, Don Compagnoni has proven a tireless campaigner on behalf of Queensland woolgrowers at both State and Federal level.

Chrisie Higgins
FORMER Surat woolgrower frustrated with below-cost returns, Chrisie and her husband Hugh built a Toowoomba wool value-added company in 1993 aimed at making non-woven woolen products. Disillusioned with the poor profitability of selling wool as clothing products, their research showed the non-woven market was big and their sales have proven it - Higgins Wool sells woolen underwear, bedding, and insulation onto domestic and Asian markets.

Mac Drysdale
AUGATHINELLA based Mac Drysdale has led Australia’s wool industry through some of its toughest years. In 1988 at age 30, he was elected as the youngest-ever president of UGA, serving until 1990. He was later elected to a three-year term as president of the IWS, and is currently a director of Country Road and the Australian Wool Group.

Will Roberts
As president of the Queensland Stud Merino Breeders Association the Victoria Downs principal is the public face of...
$2000 travel voucher from Primac

ALAN Lauder, Woodstock, Cunnamulla receives a $2000 travel voucher from Primac Wool Manager Ken Johnson. Alan won the prize as part of the State finals of the Flock Ewe Competition for the Central Zone.