

## **Acknowledgements**

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## About the authors

**John Tothill** came to Queensland in 1962 after spending 4 years with the New Zealand Department of Agriculture studying the rehabilitation of tussock grasslands in Central Otago. He was later awarded a Ph.D from the University of California at Davis for agro-ecological research on the rangelands of the central Coast Range of California.

In Queensland with the CSIRO Division of Tropical Pastures (later DTCP), he studied the pasture ecology of the southern black speargrass lands in particular, and Australia's northern pasture lands in general. During this time he also worked, through consultancies with FAO, with pasture research groups in north-east and north-west Argentina, and in central and southern Brazil. From 1985–1989, he was closely involved with the forage, rangeland and pasture programs of the International Livestock Centre for Africa (ILCA). Although he was based in Ethiopia, his mandate was to coordinate research for all of sub-Saharan Africa (excluding South Africa).

In 1984, he was involved, with Dr John Mott, in the organisation of the International Savanna Symposium in Brisbane, and in the subsequent published proceedings—*Ecology and Management of the World's Savannas*. He has also co-authored, with Dr Brian Hacker, the book *The Grasses of Southeast Queensland* and its revised sequel *The Grasses of Southern Queensland*. He retired from CSIRO in 1991.

**Col Gillies** joined the Soil Conservation section of the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Stock (now QDPI) in 1957 at Kingaroy, after 12 years experience on dairy-grain and extensive grain farms.

In 1965 he started the soil conservation service for the rapidly expanding grain-sheep-beef enterprises of the Central Highlands, based at Emerald. He has been a generalist rather than a specialist and has always encouraged integrated farm planning. He was keenly interested in native pastures and had a leading role in the implementation of the Fitzroy Basin Land Development (Brigalow) Scheme, and also in the planning of the Emerald Irrigation Scheme.

He moved to Rockhampton in 1972 as Officer-in-Charge of the Capricornia Soil Conservation Region, where he collected and compiled the data on land condition of the non-arid areas of Queensland as part of the Commonwealth/State Collaborative Soil Conservation Study.

In 1978 he returned to Kingaroy in charge of the South Burnett Soil Conservation Region, before moving to Brisbane in 1981 as Senior Advisor of the Service. There he administered the existing soil conservation legislation and drafted the Soil Conservation Act of 1986. He retired from the QDPI in 1988.