



Grazing Land Management Workshop Evaluation Results

Feedback received from GLM Workshops held March 2013

Results

An evaluation was undertaken by MLA the organisation who provided the workshop. Information collected on usefulness of each component within the 8 modules, presenter knowledge, presentation techniques, venue, and catering was of limited use to Rangelands NRM for evaluation purposes. Areas considered useful for Rangelands NRM were:

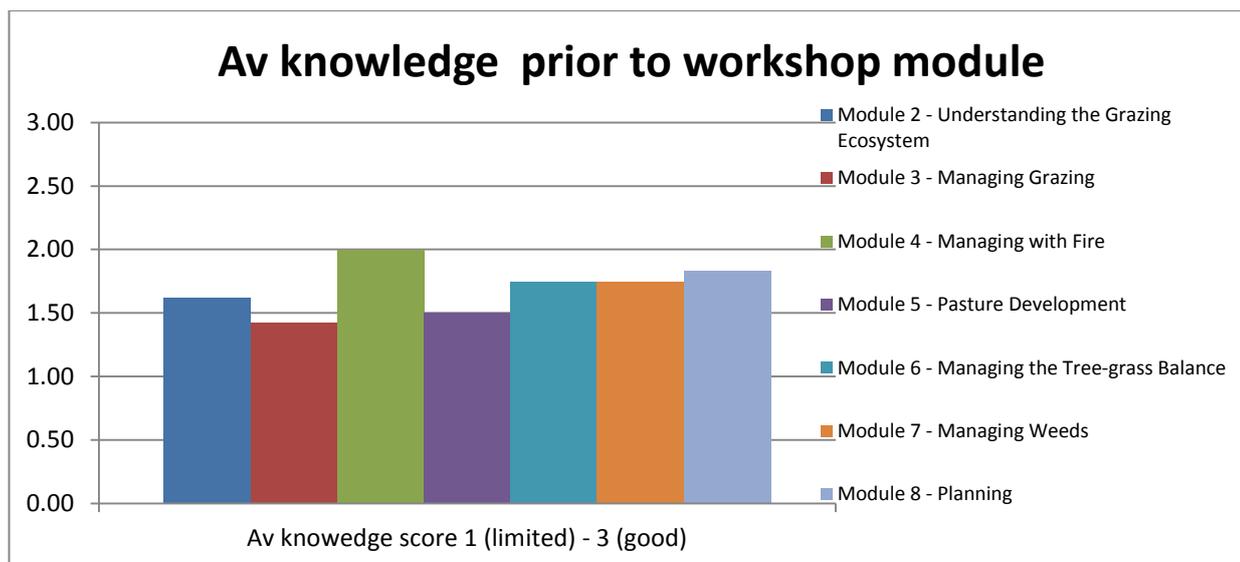
- knowledge level pre workshop;
- knowledge enhancements as a result of the workshop;
- changes that attendees are likely to make; and
- comments.

Eight people took part in the workshop. All 8 completed a questionnaire but not all answered every question or each component of a question.

Pre-knowledge

Respondents were asked to rate their knowledge of 7 knowledge topics on a scale of limited, reasonable, or good. In order to better analyse this, numerical score of 1-3 was assigned to each response. This allowed an average score across each question.

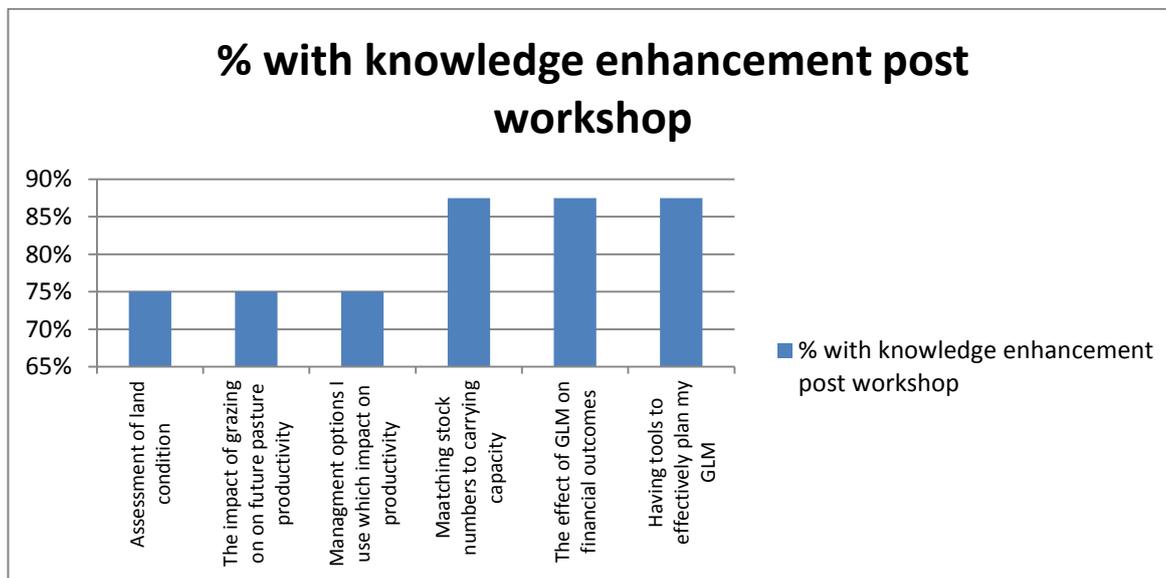
The results indicated that the lowest average knowledge base prior to the workshop was for the Managing Grazing module (av. score of 1.43). The greatest level of knowledge prior to the workshop related to managing with fire (av. score of 2). The perceived level of knowledge about planning was relatively high compared to the others but comments made in the question about ways in which grazing land management practices would be altered as a result of the workshop indicated that implementation of learnt planning and economic/business principles would feature prominently in future activities.



Change in knowledge

A self-assessment of the level of knowledge change post the workshop was also sought. Respondents were required to complete a single tick box for all topics where they felt they had increased their knowledge. All respondents except 1 answered in the affirmative for most of the questions. Given the limited information gained from the question type, the level of increased understanding is not possible to measure.

Three of the topic groups - matching stock numbers to carrying capacity, the effect of GLM on financial outcomes, having tools to effectively plan my GLM – were self-assessed by respondents as increased for 88% (n=7) of the respondents. The remaining three areas were increased in 75% (n=6) of respondents.



Call to action

Respondents completed an open ended question about how they felt that they would alter their grazing management as a result of the workshop. Twelve comments were received from 8 respondents. These responses about how they would implement the information were categorised into three key themes. Some comments included more than one theme.

- activities associated with better economic and business management (6 instances);
- improved animal husbandry (2 instances); and
- improved land condition and understanding of effective land management (8 instances).

Examples include:

- “I learned some simple and cost effective ways to develop country.”
- “I will now be able to look at the statistics of the carrying capacities with the numbers of cattle and determine how to manage paddocks in accordance to their land condition and in turn increase them while at the time increasing cattle's condition.”
- “I will use all the tools and formulas to improve land condition and grazing pressure of paddocks to achieve better calving rates.”

Overall comments

Respondents were asked to provide an overall comment on the workshop. Twelve individual comments were received from 8 respondents. Three key themes were identified from these comments:

- Attendees benefitted through increased access to beneficial management tools
- A workshop format that combined access to field practice and theory was of great benefit to learning
- Attendees gained useful knowledge through a new way of looking at land management.

Examples included:

- “it's opened my eyes to things that I used to think were pretty straight forward but now I'll never look at grass the same way again.”
- “I'm looking forward to putting these tools to use and see the improvements we can make in the next few years”.

Analysis

Only a few areas of the evaluation form used by the organisers of the course were of use to Rangelands NRM. These items however, indicated that the course was of benefit in improving skills amongst those who attended and that the learning would translate into improved land management.