

# Alejandro Carrillo Grazing Workshop

**Date:** 1st & 2nd September 2023

**Location:** Latrobe Station (and Arlington Park)  
Longreach QLD 4730

On Las Damas Ranch, Mexico, in the arid heart of the Chihuahuan Desert, Alejandro Carrillo's grazing management has improved soil health and water infiltration; escalating pasture production, biodiversity and livestock numbers, to create a profitable, resilient business.

Alejandro undertook Holistic Management training in 2006, and was very fortunate to be mentored by some exceptional practitioners, operating not far from his ranch. Since then, he has continued to evolve and adapt the grazing system on Las Damas Ranch, and has travelled to many countries and continents to learn from the best graziers utilising regenerative practices.



Adaptive grazing practices and regenerative principles have transformed Las Damas Ranch into a thriving grassland ecosystem. Net revenue has increased 350%, with an ability to run 6 times the cow numbers at a lower unit cost of production. The health of the closed herd has improved; the cattle no longer require vaccinations, mortality rates have dropped, and the only routine supplement used is sea salt, compared to the previous requirement of supplemental feedstuffs from March to July every year. The herd is highly adapted to their environment and perform optimally within the harsh conditions of the desert. The ranch now requires less labor to operate, despite the cattle being moved twice a day.

## Workshop Topics

- The water cycle
- Soil fertility
- Making invasive plants and pests irrelevant in our grasslands
- Indicators
- Genetic selection
- Regenerative grazing
- Risk management
- Return on investment

## Field Visit

- Check soils (eg. aggregation, aroma, life, compaction)
- Check plants (eg. leaf to stem ration, basal area, root system)
- Check water system (eg. water sources & flow rates)
- Prioritised investments (eg. classifying areas based on potential for forage production and return)
- Perform plant and soil tests (eg. water infiltration rate, brix level, shovel test, soil life)
- Check livestock (including manure)

**Book your workshop tickets here:** <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/alejandro-carrillo-two-day-grazing-workshop-tickets-613318581387>

**Ticket price** includes morning teas, lunches, refreshments, tea, coffee etc.

**Full price \$800 pp plus GST**

If you are camping onsite, or staying nearby, you can arrange for breakfasts and dinners for an extra fee.

## ACCOMMODATION OPTIONS:

There will be a tent city on site, and you will be able to book a tent with bedding and linen at <https://tentcityhire.com.au/alejandro-carrillo-grazing-workshop2023/>

Free camping is available if you wish to roll out your swag or bring your own camping outfit. We can also provide a limited number of shearers stretchers, upon request.

Alternatively, you may wish to book accommodation in the nearby towns of Longreach or Ilfracombe. The exact location of the tent city is yet to be confirmed, but it is approximately a 45 min drive from Longreach to the Latrobe homestead, or a 50 min drive from Ilfracombe to the Latrobe homestead, and then a short drive from there to the venue; allow about an hour for the entire journey. Directions available upon request.



We recommend you book early if staying in town, as it will be during tourist season, and there are multiple events on in the region. For any further queries please contact Jody Brown via phone on 0428139677 (please leave a message, and text messages are best) or email [jodyjoybrown@gmail.com](mailto:jodyjoybrown@gmail.com)

Please note, this event follows the **Regenerative Rangelands 2023 (RR23)** event, August 30th & 31st, which is made possible by the *SQNSW Innovation Hub* and will also be held at Latrobe. **Register for RR23** here: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/rr23-regenerative-rangelands-2023-tickets-653628479377>

More info on Alejandro's work:

The Desert Shepherds Project - excellent article:  
<https://themasites.pbl.nl/nature-based-solutions/cases/mexico>

A wonderful video:  
<https://youtu.be/XsmoJsRWK0Q>