SOIL SCIENCE - RAISING THE PROFILE

Australian and New Zealand National Soils Conference
1-4 July 1996

News Update
For the latest information on the conference log in to the World Wide Web:

The Conference Organising Committee is pleased with the progress towards the Australian and New Zealand National Soils Conference. Information was given in Soils News No. 105. The pre and post conference tours are shaping up well and salient details are given below. Also on the second last page there is a registration form.

Student Members
Student members should be aware that the branches have each received money from Federal Council to support their attendance at the National Soils Conference and that many branches in their own right and inimical fashion provide support for students to attend conferences.

 Provisional Program
Sunday 30 June
Welcome and Registration
Monday 1 July
Registration
Official Opening
Overview Plenary - 'Soil Science - Raising the Profile' by Professor R. E. White, President of ASSSI
Plenary - 'Is Pedology Dead and Buried?' by Dr L. Bashe, Landcare Research, Lincoln, NZ
Lunch
pm - concurrent sessions
Cocktail hour
Conference Dinner at Ormond College
Tuesday 2 July
Plenary - 'Are Rural Land Practices a Threat to the Environment?' Dr D. Blackmore, Chief Executive Officer, Murray Darling Basin Commission
am - concurrent sessions
Lunch
Mid conference tours - Pedology and Land Use
Yarra Valley and west Gippsland tours will dine at the Melaleuca Lodge at Beaconsfield Christmas Hills and Romsey-Sunbury tours will dine at Emu Bottom Homestead near Sunbury.
Wednesday 3 July
Plenary - 'Is the Soil an Appropriate Dumping Ground for our Wastes?' by Dr K. Cameron, Department of Soil Science, Lincoln University, NZ
am - concurrent sessions
Lunch
Mid conference tours - Land Management Issues
Ellinbank Dairy Research - rural land use
Parwan Valley - soil erosion
West Melbourne - contaminated soils
Werribee south - land application of wastes

ADVERTISING IN SOILS NEWS
Commercial advertisements are welcome in Soils News. Material will be accepted as long as, in the editor's opinion, the material is relevant to some aspect of soil science. Conferences, courses in soil science, scholarships and similar material which is of general interest and likely to contribute to the educational and professional development of members of the Society will be free of charge.

If you know of any commercial business which has a product of interest to soil scientists and would like to advertise in Soils News, then please encourage them to contact the editor.
The charges are:
Full page - $70
Half page - $35
Quarter page - $20

DEADLINE NEXT ISSUE
14 June 1996
E-mail preferred
Material on disk - Microsoft Word V. 5.1 preferred

Editor for 1994-96
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Fax: (03) 9471 0224
E-mail address: N.Uren@latrobe.edu.au

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Page 1
Thursday 4 July

Plenary – 'Has Biotechnology a Role in Soil Science?' Professor J. M. Lynch, University of Surrey, UK

am – concurrent sessions

Lunch

Concluding session with presentation of prizes for oral and poster presentations concurrent with Symposium on Pedometrics including a keynote paper by Professor Johan Bouma (Department of Soil Science and Geology, Wageningen Agricultural University) entitled 'Role of quantitative approaches in soil science when interacting with stakeholders'.

Delegate Motel Accommodation

Delegates to the National Conference who prefer motel accommodation should make their own arrangements. There is a number of establishments quite close to the University offering accommodation. Special rates have been negotiated for delegates. To obtain these rates you must indicate that you are attending the National Soils Conference, when you make your booking.

• Travel Inn
  (Discount rates from $A95.00)
  Telephone: (03) 9347 7922
  Cnr Grattan & Drummond Streets, Carlton 3062
  Fax: (03) 9347 1424

• The Townhouse Hotel
  (Discount rates from $A90.00)
  Telephone: (03) 9347 7811
  701 Swanson Street, Carlton 3053
  Fax: (03) 9347 8225

• Elizabeth Tower Motel
  (Discount rates from $A80.00)
  Telephone: (03) 9347 9211
  Cnr Elizabeth & Grattan Streets, Melbourne 3000
  Fax: (03) 9347 03963

• Country Comfort Old Melbourne Hotel
  (Discount rate from $A99.00)
  5-17 Flemington Road, Melbourne 3000
  Telephone: (03) 9329 9344
  Fax: (03) 9328 4870

• Parkville Place
  (Discount rates from $A65.00)
  Telephone: (03) 9387 8477
  124 Brunswick Road, Brunswick 3056
  Fax: (03) 9387 8477

• Parkville Motel
  (Discount rates from $A60.00)
  Telephone: (03) 9388 1500
  759 Park Street, Brunswick 3056
  Fax: (03) 9387 3384

• Princess Park Motor Inn
  (Discount rates from $A80.00)
  Telephone: (03) 9388 1000
  2 Sydney Road, Carlton North 3054
  Fax: (03) 9387 3749

PRE CONFERENCE TOUR:

Southern New South Wales and North East Victoria

Wednesday 26 June (leave Sydney: am) to Saturday 29 June (arrive Melbourne: pm),
Overnights at Canberra, Albury/Wodonga and Dookie.

Tour to include Landform and Vegetation Associations at Wollongong, Acid Sulphate Soils at Nowra, Biodiversity Research at Goulburn, Effluent Irrigated Plantations and Remediation of Gasworks Site at Wagga Wagga, Water Use and Drainage and Managing Feedlot Wastes at Rutherglen, Land Use after Tobacco at Myrtleford, Nutrients and Algal Blooms at Lake Mokoan, Soil Management and Information Transfer at Dookie, Irrigating Red Brown Earths and Educating Kids about Soils at Tatura, Managing Vineyard Soils at Nagambie and Maintaining the Range, at Puckapunyal Army Base.

Sunday 30 June is a free day in Melbourne between the pre conference tour and the commencement of the conference. Use the day to take in the sights of Victoria's capital. The Royal Zoological Gardens are a short walk across the parklands from The University of Melbourne or you can catch a tram into the heart of the city if you wish.

The Organising Committee is seeking expressions of interest for either a Pre Conference Tour from Sydney to Melbourne and/or a Post Conference Tour from Melbourne to Adelaide.

Approximate costs are expected to be $350-400/head for each tour. Please note that costs may vary depending on tour numbers but final estimates will be forwarded as soon as response to these proposals are known. It is planned that the tour cost will cover coach hire, breakfasts and lunches for the days of a tour and overnight accommodation during a tour. Estimated costs do not cover accommodation and meals for the points of departure and arrival (i.e. Sydney, Melbourne or Adelaide) or for dinners (evening meals) during a tour. The latter are deliberately left unplanned to allow freedom for tour participants to dine as they wish. Planned itineraries are still to be finalised but the outline below should provide enough detail to whet your appetite. The tours will complement the conference program by featuring aspects of soils to be covered by the plenary speakers (eg. pedology, urban waste management, rural land management) as well as a range of other interesting subjects. Please note that we will need to receive your response as soon as possible to enable planning of these tours to proceed.
POSTCONFERENCE TOUR:
Western Victoria and South East South Australia
Friday 5 July (leave Melbourne: am) to Monday 8 July (arrive Adelaide: pm). Overnights at Port Campbell, Hamilton and Penola.
Tour to include Coastal Erosion at Barwon Heads, Coal Mining and Rehabilitation at Anglesea, Landsliding along Wild Dog Creek at Apollo Bay, Rainforest Walk at Lavers Hill, Geomorphology and Soils and Draining Dairy Farms and Controlling Nutrients in the Heytesbury Settlement, Toposequences, Waterlogging and Salinity at Woomdoor, Geology of a Lateritic Plateau and Salinity Genesis in the Dundas Tablelands, Volcanics at Mt Gambier, Catchment Management on The Cook Plains and Nutrient Transport from Pastures at Mt Bold.
Any participants who wish to travel back to Melbourne from Adelaide on the tour coach on Tuesday 9 July, will be able to do so without incurring any extra cost, except for the overnight (8 July) stay in Adelaide and meals during the return trip.

Please fill in this notice of intent:
Name: ____________________________
Affiliation: ________________________
Address: __________________________
I wish to attend the
PRE CONFERENCE TOUR: Yes/No
I wish to attend the
POST CONFERENCE TOUR: Yes/No
Return to: Austin Brown, State Chemistry Laboratory, Cnr Sneydes and South Roads, Werribee, 3030, Victoria, Australia.

C. General
9. How well does this poster represent an application of the scientific method to problem solving?
10. Did you like the quality of the poster? Does it need a little or a lot of help to improve it as a professional contribution?

The Land
Peter Johnson is a journalist with 'The Land' newspaper in NSW and is on the lookout for news about soils. He believes that he is well placed to inform the farming public of landuse and soil issues which affect them. Peter recently completed a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture, with first class honours in soil science, at the University of Sydney. His address is 'The Land' PO Box 999, North Richmond, NSW, 2754, or he can be contacted by phone: 045 704 444 or by fax: 045 704 650.

ASSI on the World Wide Web
A web page on the WWW for ASSI is under construction. The URL is:
Tony Weatherley is responsible for the management of the web page and he, just like your editor of Soils News (who may be made obsolete by this initiative), would like to hear of news from the branches and of existing links with soil science web pages. His address is Dr Tony Weatherley, Department of Agriculture and Resource Management, University of Melbourne, Parkville, 3052, Victoria. Information either on a 3.5" HD disk or sent via E-mail: "t.weatherley@agriculture.unimelb.edu.au"
Soils News

Did you miss out last time?
If you did miss out it was because you were not financial at the time that Soils News went to press.
If you miss out next time then make sure that you have paid your subscription.
Only financial members receive Soils News.

Membership of ASSSI

as at 15th March 1996

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Financial*

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*Unfinancial is defined as 12 months in arrears (Article 16)

ASSSI Honorary Life Member

Dr Gordon Hallsworth has been made an Honorary Life Member of the ASSSI in recognition for his contributions to soil science not only within Australia but also throughout the world.

He began his career as a soil scientist as Lecturer in Agricultural Chemistry at the University of Sydney. In 1950 he became Professor of Agricultural Chemistry at the University of Nottingham (Sutton Bonnington). In 1960 he returned to Australia as Visiting Professor of Soil Science at the University of WA and in 1964 he became Chief of the CSIRO Division of Soils.

He also became President of ISSS and was Chairman of the Organizing Committee for the IXth International Congress in Soil Science which was held in Adelaide in 1968. In 1973 he was appointed Chairman of the CSIRO Land Resource Divisions.

After his retirement Dr Hallsworth remained active in the international domain and it is fitting that several years ago he was accorded the rare honour of being elected an Honorary Member of ISSS.

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Soil remediation vital for Australasia Pacific

Top international and regional country leaders tackled a wide range of contamination issues at the International Conference on Contaminants in the Soil Environment in the Australasia-Pacific Region in Adelaide in February. Many members of the ASSS were seen to brush up on developments, especially in relation to the experiences of global authorities amongst whom were:

Professor PSC Rao, University of Arizona, on remediation of contaminated aquifers;

Professor Richard Burns, University of Birmingham, on bioremediation;

Professor Richard Fowler, University of Adelaide, on legal aspects;

Dr Rufus Chaney, USDA, on plant uptake of contaminants and into agricultural products; and

Professor Malcolm Sumner, University of Georgia, agricultural chemical contamination.

Some 230 delegates, including 90 from 25 countries, represented industry, regulators, consultants and the leading members of the global science community. They met to assess contamination issues, the state of remediation technology and the strategies needed to ensure pressure from industrialisation and additional food production for the region do not lead to the same degradation and environmental problems as has occurred elsewhere.

It was reported that 400,000 known waste disposal sites in the US would cost US $1 trillion dollars to remediate in the next 20-30 years. Contaminated sites in Australia number in excess of...
propose d as one possibl e means of paying for the cost of remediation.

The conference was planned by a dedicated group under the chairmanship of Dr Ravi Naidu, Leader of the Soil Contamination, Remediation and Food Quality Program of the CRC for Soil & Land Management, and jointly convened with the CSIRO Division of Soils.

It was opened by Hon David Wotton, Minister for the Environment and Natural Resources on Sunday 18th Feb at the Stamford Grand Hotel and continued to Friday 23rd. At the opening session, Professor Malcolm Sumner gave the plenary address in honour of the late Dr Kevin Tiller (1992 Prescott medal winner).

A comprehensive publicity program in relation to the global visiting experts, science and technology, and the expertise of the Adelaide based science team was undertaken. As a result the conference attracted prime time TV and radio news, talk-back radio, other live TV and many radio interviews, and newspaper coverage especially in the eastern states. Further recordings have been made and considerable follow up is occurring in a range of glossy periodicals and newsletters. (Who said soil science was not media catching?).

The Adelaide based expertise in identifying sources of contamination and developing strategies for remediation was recognised and is strongly positioned to provide leadership in the Asia-Pacific Region.

Mark Seeliger,
CRC for Soil and Land Management,
PMB 2,
Glen Osmond SA 5064,
AUSTRALIA

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Letter to the Hon. Secretary

Dear Chris,

Re: The refereering of Soil Science projects by the Australian Research Council

At a recent meeting on how to apply for ARC grants Prog G Opat (a member of the ARC Physical Science panel) suggested that to assist with the selection of referees by the ARC panels feedback from learned societies would be helpful. Professor Opat indicated that he was lobbying the Australian Institute of Physics to contact the ARC. In a similar manner I suggest that the ASSSI could approach the ARC. This would be with the view to obtaining the names of the referees which the ARC has listed in the soil science area. Prof Opat suggested that this information should be available. If the ASSSI can obtain this information then, in consultation with members, suggestions could be made to the ARC of additional people suitable to referee soil science projects.

The ASSSI would also be in a position to note how many non soil scientists had been used to referee soil science projects.

Additional information might also be sought by the ASSSI from the ARC regarding soil science projects. For example, how many projects with ARC code numbers appropriate to soil science were reviewed by the Physical Science panel, how many projects were reviewed by the Biological Science panel, and is the success rate for soil science projects higher or lower than other comparable disciplines?

In a related matter it may be possible for the ASSSI to look at the composition of the boards and review panels of the rural funding agencies. This would be with a view to lobby for any apparent under representation of soil scientist to be remedied. While the sorts of actions described above are to an extent political they seem to me to be totally in line with the object of the Society 'To advance soil science'.

With best wishes I remain,
Yours sincerely,
Blair M. McKenzie

Note: Federal Council discussed Blair's letter and agreed that the issue was worth bringing to the attention of the members of ASSSI and seeking answers to Blair's questions and the establishment of a soil science category (see item 7.4.1 below). – Ed.

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Federal Council

177th ASSSI Federal Council Meeting
Minutes (yet to be accepted)
Friday, 15 March 1996
University of Melbourne,
Faculty of Agriculture, Forestry and Horticulture.
Meeting opened at 2.05 p.m.

7.1 Present
White (President), Hazelton (VP),
Chalk (Treasurer), Mulvey (NSW), Weatherley (WA), Olsson (ACT), Uren (Ed.), Weston (Sec), Peverill (Qld).

7.2 Minutes
Minutes (yet to be accepted)
Meeting opened at 2.05 p.m.

7.3 Matters arising from minutes of the previous meeting

7.3.1 Prize committee
A prize committee will be appointed to coordinate the scoring system for oral and poster presentations at the forthcoming National Soils Conference. ASSSI awards will be presented at the conference.
7.3.2 Honorary Life membership
The life membership committee (White, Hazelton, Black) recommended that Dr Gordon Hallsworth be accepted as a life member of the ASSSI. Council approved the acceptance of Hallsworth as a life member of the ASSSI.

7.3.3 Central Office
Phil Chalk led Council through the proposal for provision of secretariat services to the ASSSI. Following discussion, it was recommended that the Treasurer recommend the level of annual subscription for 1997 at the next meeting. Council members are encouraged to put views on subscriptions to the Treasurer for discussion at the next meeting.

7.3.4 Accreditation
Draft agreement between the ASSSI and the AIAS
The President spoke to a draft memorandum of agreement between the AIAS and the ASSSI for implementation of the standards for professional soil scientists and called for comments from Council. Council members discussed at length the draft proposal. The main points to emerge from the discussion are as follows:
- Section 5.1: regarding defining the scope of the profession, Ken Peverill proposed to exclude the last half of Section 5.1. Accepted (Peverill, Hazelton)
- Phil Mulvey expressed concern that the document reads as if the ASSSI is a subsidiary of the AIAS. After some discussion and explanation of the genesis of the document, the President suggested changes to the promotional material sent out to ASSSI members expressing the wish for CPSS certificates for ASSSI members to contain the ASSSI logo only.
- Section 3.9: eligibility for CPSS. After wide ranging discussion Council decided that eligibility for CPSS status be open only to members of the ASSSI. To effect this change in the draft document Phil Mulvey proposed that section 3.9 be deleted and the word 'only' be substituted in section 6.1.1. Accepted (Mulvey, Williamson)
- Section 6.2.10: Council resolved to modify this section as follows: 'Upon resignation, non-payment of fees by a due date, or proof of professional misconduct, CPSS status will be forfeited'. Accepted (Hazelton, Mulvey)
- Section 6.2.4: Council resolved to modify this section by including the words 'towards a higher degree in an appropriate area'. Accepted (Hazelton, Mulvey)
- Given the deletion section 3.9, the entire document needs to be checked for inappropriate statements.
- All of the above changes will be incorporated in the document and discussed with the AIAS. The proposal will then be circulated to Federal Council members before the next meeting.

7.3.5 Soil Science Development
Phil Mulvey to report to Council at the next meeting.

7.3.6 Ratification of edited constitution and by-laws
The constitution and by-laws have been edited for the changes recently approved by the membership and for gender specific language. The President called for comments on the edited document. Council recommended the following changes:
- all medal due dates to March 31,
- new membership applications to Central Office then forwarded to Federal Council for approval (eliminate approval at the Branch Committee level). The Treasurer is to bring forward the necessary changes to the By-laws.

7.3.7 ASSSI WWW home page
Tony Weatherley updated Council on the development of the ASSSI WWW home page. To streamline the advertisement of the ASSSI on the WWW Phil Mulvey moved that the ASSSI purchase software to the value of $150. Accepted (Mulvey, Peverill)

7.3.8 40th Anniversary of the ASSSI
It was agreed that the introduction of an accreditation scheme would be a good way to mark this anniversary.

7.4 Correspondence
7.4.1 Refereeing of ARC soil science projects by ASSSI members
Blair McKenzie's letter to be published in Soils News (without the last paragraph). The President to write to DEET to seek prominence for soil science projects by ASSSI referees for soil science related projects.

7.4.2 National Conference on Sustainable Land Management
RJ Morrison has advised the ASSSI that this conference has been postponed indefinitely.

7.4.3 AGC
Still corresponding with the President even though the ASSSI has withdrawn from the AGC.

7.4.5 ISSS
Announcement of the 16th World Congress in August 1988. Received letter from the ISSS proposing changes to the structure of the ISSS. Pam Hazelton to follow up on outcomes of the Montpellier conference.
7.4.7 AIG Registration Proposal
For noting.

7.4.8 International Symposium on Sustainable Rice Yields
For information.

7.5 Secretary's Report
7.5.1 Taylor Medal
Applications received and committee proposed.

7.5.2 Plant Nutrition Trust
Still being set up. ASSSI representative on the Trust committee.

7.6 Treasurer's Report
7.6.1 Financial Status.
The Treasurer presented a statement of accounts for the society and explained expenditure to Council and moved that the statement of accounts be accepted.

Carried (Chalk, Mulvey)

Membership. 26 new applications for membership were approved. Reinstatements and terminations were reported. The Treasurer moved that the membership report be accepted and noted that the membership is creeping up to 900 and that the student membership in particular is increasing.

Carried (Chalk, Weatherley)

7.7 National Soils Conference (1–4 July 1996)
The President of the conference committee reported on progress of the conference organisation. The Administration/Secretariat is in place. Accommodation and conference meals organized. Close (April) to knowing the financial situation and total number of participants. 342 posters and abstracts received. Will post reminder letter including pre and post conference tour details soon. Conference tour dinners and some tours finalized.

7.8 Editor of Soils News report
The deadline for the next Soils News is March 15. The next Soils News will include a conference registration form.

7.9 New Business
Waiving of conference registration fees for Federal Council members. Need clarification on who is exempt from registration fees for the National Soils Conference. AGM at the National Soils Conference. To include President's report, Treasurer's report, Editor Soils News report. Need to decide when to run the meeting.

7.10 Next meeting
The next meeting will be held at 2 p.m. on June 22 1996 in the New Committee Room, Faculty of Agriculture, Forestry and Horticulture at The University of Melbourne.

Meeting closed at 5.45 p.m.

Dear Nick,

Congratulations to Mike McLaughlin for shouting the equivalent of: 'the emperor has no clothes' in the most recent edition of Soils News. That is, for calling attention to a fact which we could all see but didn't want to acknowledge - that 'professional spirit' is on the wane and that a symptom of that is the poor attendance at scientific meetings and seminars. The only point on which I might differ from Mike is in his apparent limitation of the problem to Soil Science. It's not of course. The same malaise affects many other disciplines - not that this is any source of comfort.

I tried to analyse the problem by asking myself why did we go to seminars and the like. As in most human activities, there were several reasons apart from the obvious one of learning something. They would differ between individuals and occasions but would include a desire to show empathy with the speaker, an opportunity to explore his subject by participating in a discussion session, a desire to meet colleagues from different organisations and indulge in a little social chat, and even a desire to show one's own knowledge of the subject in question by asking a penetrating question or two.

Well, what has changed? I think we have all become self-centred and inward looking. We don't, for example, feel the need to show empathy with colleagues. Look at the daily behaviour of your colleagues - and perhaps your own? They arrive at work, retire monk-like to their little cell and perform their daily devotions over their computer. They even send E-mail messages to the person just down the corridor rather than take the time to stroll down for a little chat. Come the end of the day, home they go as soon as possible. I think there are two reasons for this kind of behaviour.

One is that everybody is in competition with everybody else. This is true even within the same organisation - if anyone else gets a grant then that is so much less money available to you to seek for your grant. Of course, competition between organisations is even more marked. Colleagues have said to me that they would never give a seminar in which they revealed anything incomplete and certainly not anything that might provide an idea to a potential rival. It doesn't matter whether or not their fears are justified. It only matters that they have these fears. The result may well be the 'dead boring' seminars Mike fears.

The other reason is that everybody feels driven. The tentacles of managerialism have tied them up so thoroughly that few have any room to move. Indeed some are expected to record all of their daily activities. On the one hand this means that they have so little time left to do the things they want to do that they are reluctant to undertake anything ancillary. On the other hand, one colleague said to me: 'I
don't want to go to a seminar. If I did, I might get an idea and I wouldn't be able to do anything about it. That would drive me nuts'.

So what else would you expect? If professionals are treated like units of production – or 'human resources' – they act accordingly. The irony of this induced mollusc-like behaviour by scientists is that it negates one of the best-loved cliches of managerialism. How often have you heard management-speak about the need for a 'critical mass to make a group viable'? Apart from the horrible mix of metaphors, the implication is that people will interact. And these days they scarcely do. Every scientist is almost as isolated in a big group or a small one.

What can be done about it? Not much while competition rather than cooperation is the order of the day and while managerialism holds sway. You see, the remedies applied by managerialism are constrained by limited vision. They fiddle with the arrangement of top management. They have difficulty in seeing the bottom of the tree – where most of the readers of this letter are. Yet there is much that wise management could do there to make you feel part of a group by encouraging social interaction and then scientific interaction. By treating you more like a human than a human resource. Pity that no-one has the time to do it.

Jim Barrow
22 Townsend Dale
Mt Claremont, WA

**ASSSI Poster**

A new poster which reflects on the activities and concerns of the ASSSI is now available from the branches. The poster shows a bare landscape with the words 'Fragile and Limited' across the top. The Queensland Branch Committee is worried that it is not clear as to what is actually 'Fragile and Limited'! Bare landscapes? Soil? Or, the ASSSI?

![Would you believe](image)

That in Britain a member of parliament, Anne Campbell MP, argued that soil should be specifically mentioned in the Environment Bill because it was worthy of protection and enhancement. She failed, but it would seem the point was made. Also, at a meeting of the British Soil Water Physics Group of the British SSS to discuss dielectric measurements in soils, Wan Tahir had the temerity to discuss the potential errors that may occur using the coupled TDR and resistivity method. Apparently he showed that porosity, salinity, range of water content used for calibration, and temperature flux can have a marked effect on calibration between dielectric properties and water content. BSSS Newsletter No. 28 January 1996

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**International Conference on Buffer Zones: their Processes and Potential in Water Protection**

2 August to 2 September

Heythrop Park, Oxfordshire, UK

Draft Conference Plenary Papers:

- **Buffer Zones and Water Quality Protection: General Principles** – Professor David Correll (Smithsonian Environmental Research Centre, USA)
- **Hydrogeology of Buffer Zone systems** – Dr Tim Burt (Oxford University)
- **Buffer Zones as Sediment Traps or Sources** – Professor Theo Dillaha (Virginia Tech., USA)

The Interaction of Buffer Zones and Phosphorus Runoff – Dr Jaasi Uusi-Kamppa (Agricultural Research Centre, Finland)

Nitrogen Dynamics and Buffer Zones – Professor Wendell Gilliam (North Carolina State University, USA)

Pesticide Contamination of Water – the Potential Role of Buffer Zones – Mr Graham Harris (ADAS, UK)

Effect of Eutrophic Waters on Buffer Zone Communities – Dr Chris Newbold (English Nature, UK)

Effect of Contaminated Waters on Buffer Zones Soil Microbiological Complex – Dr Peter Groffman (Institute of Ecosystem Studies, USA)

Sedimentation and the Impact on Vegetation Structure – Dr Jacky Girel (Centre de Biologie Alpine, France)

The Potential Role of In-stream and Hyporheic Environments as Buffer Zones – Professor Alan Hill (York University, Canada)

The Potential Role of Riparian Forest Ecosystems as Buffer Zones – Professor Richard Lowrance (Southeast Watershed Research Laboratory, USA)

The Potential Role of Ponds as Buffer Zones – Dr Siegfried Fleischer (Halmstad Project, Environmental Protection, Sweden)

The Potential Role of Wet Grassland Meadows as Buffer Zones – Professor Ulo Mander (University of Tartu, Estonia)

The Potential Role of Riverine Wetlands as Buffer Zones – Professor Carol Johnston (Natural Resources Research Institute, USA)

The Potential Role of Shelterbelts as Buffer Zones – Professor Lech Ryskowski (Polish Academy of Science, Poland)

Modelling Internal Processes of Buffer Zones – Professor Art Gold (University of Rhode Island, USA)
Modelling Interactions between Buffer Zones and the Catchment – Dr Philippe Merot (INRA-ENRA, France)

The Role and Function of Buffer Zones along Climatic Gradients – Speaker yet to be announced

A Critical Review of the Value of Buffer Zone Environments as Pollution control tool – Dr Tom Addiscott (Institute of Arable Crop Research, Rothamsted, UK)

The Restoration of Buffer Zone Functions – Speaker yet to be announced

The Establishment of Buffer Zones – The Water Fringe Option, UK – Dr Neal Cumberledge (Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food)

Integrating Buffer zones within Catchment Management Plans – Professor John Gardiner (Middlesex University, UK)

The Potential Impact of Buffer Zones in Agricultural Practice – Dr Robert Cook (Morley Research Centre, UK)

Integrating Buffer Zones with Farming Systems – Dr Jacques Baudry (INRA, France)

Encouraging Implementation – the Experience in New Zealand – Dr Bryce Cooper (National Institute of Water and Atmosphere, New Zealand)

Water Protection by Land-use Manipulation: how far, how fast? Professor Malcolm Newson (Newcastle Upon Tyne University, UK)

POSTER REPORT – Rapporteur: Dr Gilles Pina (Universite de Rennes, France)

CLOSING ADDRESS- Professor Robert Naiman (Washington State University, USA)

Dr N. Haycock
Phone: +1727 852 665
Fax: +1727 866 181
E-mail: nehaycock@qest.demon.co.uk

Applied soil science has an important role to play here. Ed.

**Advances in Soil Quality for Land Management Science, Practice and Policy**

**International Symposium**

17 – 19 April 1996

University of Ballarat

**Soil Quality is in the hands of the land manager**

A symposium for land managers, consultants, extension professionals, research scientists, tertiary students, planners and policy makers.

**Aims:**

To provide an international forum for debate on the science of soil quality

To improve understanding of functions, processes, attributes and indicators of soil quality

To examine the practical application of the soil quality concept in land management and land use policy making

**Features:**

Invited review papers from Australia, Canada, New Zealand, USA and UK plus poster sessions to address:

- Soil Quality: definition and context
- The Science of Soil Quality
- Industry Practice and Soil Quality
- Soil Quality Programs: international and national
- Resourcing Soil Quality programs: RIRDC’s and industry

**Plus:**

*Tuesday 16 April: Evening reception*

*Wednesday 17 April: Optional meal and show at Sovereign Hill: 'Blood on the Southern Cross'*

(limited numbers, early booking essential)

**Thursday 18 April:** Half day field trip and symposium dinner

**FEES:** Full conference registration (students 1/2 full fee): $200

Meal and show ‘Blood on the Southern Cross’ (Wed 17) $40

Symposium dinner (Thurs 18) $35

Accommodation (single room plus cooked breakfast) on campus $31.50 per night

**Further details from:**

Paul Ryan, Centre for Environmental Management, University of Ballarat, P. O. Box 663, Ballarat, 3353

Phone: (053) 279 223
Fax: (053) 279 240
Email: pryan@fs3.ballarat.edu.au

Mr Mark Seeliger,
CRC for Soil and Land Management
PMB 2,
Glen Osmond SA 5064,
AUSTRALIA

Phone: (08) 303 8672
Fax: (08) 303 8699

**Branch News**

**Queensland**

Ram Dalal and Wayne Strong were awarded recently a Queensland Landcare Research Award for their research into restoring fertility to degraded lands at Warra on the western Darling Downs.

**South Australia**

The guest speaker at the last general meeting was Prof Dwayne Beck from the South Dakota State University. About 35 members and visitors listened to
two weeks in April as part of an exchange scheme between the Australian Academy of Science and the Chinese Academy of Science. Two members of the Institute, Professor Zhu Qi Qing and Dr Jin Fang Wang have visited La Trobe University in 1993/4 and 1995/6 and participated in research on the development of manganese fertilisers.

Visitors

This section is intended to make sure that we make the most of any opportunities that visitors to Australia provide. If this section is to prove of any worth to both the visitor and ourselves then it is important that the hosts to provide the Editor of Soils News with the information as soon as the visit is confirmed.

Please provide the following details:

Name and normal address
Host Institution
Dates of proposed visit
Contact name, phone and fax numbers, and E-mail address

Prof Bev Kay, Dept Land Resource Science, University of Guelph, Ontario, Canada
Areas of interests: soil structure and soil processes influenced by soil structure.
Host institution: Department of Soil Science University of Adelaide
E-mail: bkay@waite.adelaide.edu.au
Phone: (08) 303 7247
Contact: Prof Sally Smith

Why do analysts measure contaminants that are not bioavailable? Are toxicologists satisfied with the ability of trace analysts to measure residual metals, pesticides, and environmental contaminants?

The Ecotox Workshop will address the discrepancy between what the analyst can measure and what is biologically and environmentally important. The issue is relevant to both organic and inorganic contaminants (toxicants), so both will be discussed.

Analysts often feel obliged to determine the total concentrations of contaminants in waters, soils and sediments, and they expend effort to measure exceptionally low values. The toxicologist is concerned primarily with the bioavailable concentrations that can impact organisms, from microbes to humans. Very low concentrations of toxicants often elicit responses which are considered ‘significant’ while fairly high concentrations may not be ‘significant’ in other settings.

What sort of matrix effects will significantly attenuate the bioavailability and environmental mobility of the contaminants or toxicants? Is there a common model we can apply to organics and inorganics?

In both the environmental fate context and the remediation context, mobile residues and bound residues present different levels of concern to the analyst and to the environmental toxicologist. For instance, at what stage can site closure take place?

Is there some common ground and some way for scientists...
This workshop is a timely one in many ways because of the continuing difficulties in measuring bioavailability of non-nutrient species. It is pity it's in Canada, but at least there are some soil scientists involved. The experiences of soil scientists with expertise in the understanding and assessment of nutrient availability would be quite relevant to many of the questions posed above. Ed.

Below are listed the titles of books received from publishers by Professor John Waid, the Executive Editor of Soil Biology and Biochemistry. Anyone who may be interested in reviewing any one of the books should contact the editor of Soils News as soon as possible. Each review would be published in both Soils News and Soil Biology and Biochemistry and the reviewer would keep the book for his or her personal library. If you are interested in reviewing any of the books listed below please contact me as soon as possible at the address given on page 1.


Dryland salinity gets little attention, except in regard to one locality, so the subtitle is not apt. A substantial bibliography and set of end-notes will be useful to those interested in technical details. Readers have to cope with a multitude of abbreviations. The importance attached to the topic is indicated by the identity of the publisher.

G. Blackburn 4/3/96


The impact of Aborigines on the environment is a topic of current interest and this book is a contribution in that regard. Kohen is a lecturer in the School of Biological Sciences at Macquarie University. The chapter titles are: Australia before Man, The first arrivals, Adapting to changing environments, Fire and Australian vegetation, The extinction of the megafauna, Technological change and the Aboriginal economy, Prehistoric population density, The impact of European settlement, Contemporary Aboriginal societies, and Conclusions. The chapters reveal the development of the author’s argument that the Aborigines were successful managers of the land and that non-aboriginal settlers are exploiters. He claims that the Aborigines ‘method of supporting their population was based on the concept of ‘sustainable development’, the ability to regenerate resources so they would be available for future generations.’

There are implications and assertions in this book that I do not like. One implication is Cohen’s expectation that non-Aboriginal Australians should have adapted to all the environments in Australia in 200 years in the same way he claims the Aborigines have taken 50,000 years to achieve – a point I will not pursue any further. One could ask what do we mean by degraded? Also, one could ask whether the land was degraded when the Aborigines first arrived because in many respects it was degraded when the European settlers arrived. Relatedly, one may also ask to what extent have the Aboriginal practices of hunting, gathering and burning contributed to land degradation? They did not, as far as I know, attempt to return the nutrients which would have accumulated around their camp sites. Burning off gives rise to nutrient losses of nutrient in the smoke and exposes soil to the erosive forces of wind and water and so soil and nutrient losses may have been considerable upon occasions, particularly if regular burns were accompanied by water repellency and followed by rainfall sufficient to erode the ash.

Regular burning also leads to the selection of species of plants which are more tolerant of repeated burning than others. The regime imposed by the Aborigines may have caused the extinction of some species and a loss of biodiversity in the same way that non-Aboriginal settlers are said to have done. Their first two hundred years may not have been as red hot as some people suggest but then again it may have been!

One main point of Cohen’s thesis is that it is really only in the last 5,000 years that Aboriginal technology, as he calls it, changed and caused a major increase in the Aboriginal population. He maintains there was a dynamic relationship between Aborigines, their technology and the flora and fauna, and although there was an associated impact on the environment it was “…without causing any large-scale land degradation which typifies more recent European land management practices. Perhaps non-aboriginal Australians have something to learn from 50,000 years of Aboriginal land management systems.’

The absence of reliable records or of irrefutable evidence suggests that he may right, but then again...
he may be wrong. Similar situations are not uncommon to soil scientists on a field trip arguing about soil formation.

N. C. Uren

On the same topic there has been apparently a huge demand for a publication entitled 'The Australian Landscape - Observations of Explorers and Early Settlers' published by Total Catchment Management Murrumbidgee, Agricultural Research Institute, PMB, Pine Gully Road, Wagga Wagga, 2650, NSW. I understand there is no charge. Phone: 069 381 832 or 069 381 999. Fax: 069 381 809. Ed.

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The Role of The Victorian Catchment and Land Protection Council

Victorian Branch Meeting
3 pm Monday 15th April
Kimpton Theatre
University of Melbourne

Speakers:
Professor Barry Hart, Director of the Water Studies Centre
Professor Robert White, Professor of Soil Science, University of Melbourne
Mr Peter Sutherland, General Manager Sustainable Development Policy, Agriculture Victoria

Particular reference will be made to the monitoring of Victoria's land and water resources, and the assessment of management practices which affect them. Members and their friends are encouraged to participate in the meeting and the discussions which arise.

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CALENDAR

1996

3-8 June
Third International Postgraduate Course 'Soil Pollution and Soil Protection'
Gent, Belgium
Applications: International Training Centre
Wageningen Agricultural University
Phone: +31 317 484 092/3
Fax: +31 317 426 547

26-28 June
15th Australian Clay Conference
CSIRO Clayton Site, Melbourne, Victoria
Dr Terry W. Turney (details in Soils News No. 104)
Phone: 03 9542 2692
Fax: 03 9544 1128
E-mail: turney@rivett.mst.csiro.au

30 June - 4 July
Joint Conference of the Australian and New Zealand Societies of Soil Science
University of Melbourne, Parkville
Dr K. Peverill (see Soils News Nos. 104 & 105)
Phone: (03) 9472 8755
Fax: (03) 9472 8700

7-11 July
Fourth Congress of the European Society for Agronomy
Congress centre Koningshof in Veldhoven
The Netherlands

Kongressservice Brabant
PO Box 140, NL-5500 AC Veldhoven
The Netherlands
Phone: +31 40 254 71 71
Fax: +31 40 254 55 15
E-mail: congress@koningshof.nl

14-18 July
International Symposium on Environmental Chemistry and Toxicology
Sydney
Ngarita Bishop
Phone: 02 357 2600
Fax: 02 357 2950

14-18 July
5th International Society of Root Research Symposium
Clemson University, Clemson, South Carolina, USA
Dr James E. Box Jr.
Phone: 0011 1 706 769 5631
Fax: 0011 1 706 769 8962
E-mail: rootconf@uga.cc.uga.edu

21-26 July
XII International Colloquium on Soil Zoology
University College Dublin
Dr T. Bolger, Dept Zoology
University College Dublin
Belfield, Dublin 4
Ireland

23-27 July
1996 Western Pacific Geophysics Meeting
Brisbane
Warren Bond (details in Soils News No. 104)
Phone: 06-246-5948
Fax: 06-246-5965
Email: w.bond@cbr.soils.csiro.au
19 -23 August  
Sugar 2000 Symposium  
CSIRO Division of Tropical Crops and Pastures  
Townsville  
Dr John Wilson  
Phone: (61) 7 3377 0321  
Fax: (61) 7 3371 3946  
E-mail: john.wilson@tcp.csiro.au

2 August to 2 September  
International Conference on Buffer Zones: their Processes and Potential in Water Protection  
Heythrop Park  
Oxfordshire UK  
Dr N. Haycock  
Phone: +1727 852 665  
Fax: +1727 866 181  
E-mail: nehaycock@qest.demon.co.uk

9-14 September  
Role of Humic Substances in the Ecosystem and Environmental Protection  
Agricultural University, Wroclaw, Poland  
Phone: +48(71)205632  
Fax: +48(71)224849  
E-mail: ihss@ozi.ar.wroc.pl

11-17 November  
International Symposium on Maximising Sustainable Rice Yields Through Improved Soil and Environmental Management  
Khon Kaen, Northeast Thailand  
Professor Dr Tasnee Attanandana  
Department of Soils, Faculty of Agriculture  
Kasetsart University, Bangkok 10903

1997  
23-26 June  
4th Biogeochemistry of Trace Elements International Conference  
Clark Kerr Campus, University of California, Berkeley, CA  
Katta J. Reddy  
Wyoming Water Resources Center  
University of Wyoming  
E-mail:katta@uwyo.edu

5-11 July  
RACI 14th Analytical Chemistry Division Conference  
Adelaide  
Paul Lindon  
Phone: 08 226 6414  
Fax: 08 226 6316

1998  
20-26 August  
16th World Congress of Soil Science  
Montpelier, France  
Congress Secretariat  
Phone: +33 6704 7538  
Fax: +33 6704 7549  
E-mail: isss@agropolis.fr  
Server WWW: http://www.cirad.fr/isss.html
## Australian and New Zealand National Soils Conference 1996

### Registration Form

Surname: (Ms/Mrs/Mr/Dr/Prof) .................................................................  
Given Names: ......................................................................................  
Preferred Name for Tag: .................................................................  
Address: ............................................................................................  
Postcode: ..........................................................................................  
Organisation: ..................................................................................  
Telephone: .......................................................................................  
Fax: .................................................................................................  

### Registration Types

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<th>Full Registration (after 30 April)</th>
<th>Student/Retired Registration</th>
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<td>Conference Dinner: Number of persons</td>
<td>@ $A50</td>
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Please tick if Vegetarian

Tick if attending the Welcome Function on Sunday 30 June

Additional places for guests to Welcome Function @ $20

I am interested in a pre-Conference Tour (Please circle)  
I am interested in a Post-Conference Tour (Please circle)

### Accommodation at Residential Colleges, University of Melbourne

Please circle nights on which you require accommodation June/July 1996

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<th>Tuesday</th>
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Other nights .................................................................  
Number of nights .................................................................  
Number of persons .................................................................  
Number of nights @ $A45 per person per night  
Other accommodation options are available (see page 2)

### Total

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### Credit Card (Please circle)

- MASTERCARD
- VISA
- BANKCARD

Credit Card No: __________________________/________/________/________/________  
Expiry Date: __________________________  
Card holder’s name (please print): __________________________  
Signature: __________________________

Please send registration form with payment in Australian Dollars payable to

**ASSSI '96**

Michael Sullivan  
Conference Management  
The University of Melbourne, Parkville 3052, Victoria, Australia

Telephone: 61 3 9344 4490  
Facsimile: 61 3 9344 6122