

Maurice Mulcahy receives Prescott Medal

The Prescott Medal for the year 2000 has been awarded to Dr Maurice Mulcahy in recognition of his contribution to land resource management. The Medal was presented at the South Australian Branch AGM by branch president Rob Fitzpatrick, himself a previous recipient of the Medal. The Prescott Medal is awarded annually by the ASSSI to a person, not necessarily a society member, who has made an outstanding contribution to soil science.

The award to Dr Mulcahy recognises his achievements in personal research, research leadership, administration and communication. *Continued page 6.*



ABOVE: South Australian Branch President Rob Fitzpatrick presents Maurice Mulcahy with the 2000 Prescott Medal at the recent SA Branch AGM.

In this issue

- **Accreditation Report**
- **Unfinancial Members**
- **Life Member Profile - Colin Williams**
- **Soils 2000 Programme**
- **Review of Educational Materials**

AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY OF SOIL SCIENCE INC.

ARBN 080 783 106

ABN 96 080 783 106

The Australian Society of Soil Science Incorporated (ASSSI) was founded in 1955 to work towards the advancement of soil science in the professional, academic and technical fields. It comprises a Federal Council and seven branches (Qld, NSW, Riverina, ACT, Vic, SA and WA). Liability of members is limited.

Objectives

- To advance soil science
- To provide a link between soil scientists and members of kindred bodies within Australia and in other countries.

Specific Objectives

- To promote the field of soil science
- To further the expertise in soil science of members
- To be a forum for discussion on soil science
- To increase government and community awareness of soil science
- To liaise and cooperate with other organisations in support of mutual interests
- To encourage research and extension in soil science
- To promote wise management of the soil resource throughout Australia

Membership

For all membership and CPSS application and renewals, subscription, queries and address changes contact Alice Bass, ASSSI executive officer on Mon-Tues 10.00am - 4.30pm and Wed 10.00 - 1.30pm. See back page for contact details.

ASSSI Website

<http://asssi.asn.au>

PROFILE

Profile is the official federal newsletter of the ASSSI. It is published quarterly with a readership of over 800.

ISSN 1328-2883.

Registered by Australian Print Post
Publication Number 424022/00717.

2000 and 2001 Deadlines

15 December, 15 March

Advertisements

Advertisements relevant to some aspect of soil science are welcome. Charges are full page \$220, half page \$110, quarter page \$55 (GST inclusive). Information about ASSSI conferences, courses, scholarships etc is published free.

Contents

4 **Letters**

6 **Maurice Mulcahy**

7 **Branch News**

10 **Accreditation**

13 **Life Member Profile**

14 **New Members**

15 **Book Reviews**

16 **Unfinancial Members**

18 **Financial Situation**

20 **Soil 2000 Programme**

22 **Wide Brown Land**

22 **Tasmanian Workshop**

22 **Victorian Tour**

26 **AJSR contents**

28 **Federal Council Minutes**

All contributions are welcome, text preferably by email. Please send to the editor, Jonnie White, PO Box 936, Biloela Q 4715, tel 07 4992 6041, fax 07 4992 6043, email jrwhite@tpg.com.au

Profile



From the president

There are two issues which I wish to raise with members. The first is to do with the financial position of the Society. In negotiating the continued provision of services from our Executive Officer, Alice Bass, it has become obvious that we need to increase the subs in 2001, and to increase the number of paying members, to enable the same standard of service. (Treasurer, David Lester has more to say on this on page 18.)

Prior to 1994, the work done by the Executive Officer was done by volunteers from within ASSSI. This is not an acceptable alternative. The membership and financial records are in the best shape they have been for years and this is due to the excellent work of the Executive Officer. As a professional society, ASSSI needs to maintain this standard as a minimum for its members.

You will see from the membership statistics that there are still about 180 people who have not paid their subs for 2000. Although this is better than last year, it still leaves our annual balance sheet in the red by about \$14,000. So consider and check. Have you paid your subs for 2000? If not, please do so immediately, to help reduce the deficit.

If you have already paid, thank you, but are there any work mates or other soil science colleagues who should be members, and you could convince to join? There are people out there. It has been brought to my attention that the number of potential soil science positions advertised in 1998/9 was equivalent to about half the ASSSI membership. We will need more full financial members to pay for the programs which the next Council is planning for the next two years.

The second issue is to do with the role of ASSSI. From recent publicity in the rural press, in most states of Australia, and in discussion with some members and those in other related groups, it is apparent that Australian soil scientists need to become more public in communicating their knowledge. Why should our farmers have to rely on visitors from overseas, who arrive with a stack of ideas based on technology gained from their own country, to indoctrinate Australian farmers (at a substantial cost), to their way of thinking?

There is scope for those who feel deeply about the land and the heritage of soil science in this country, to enter into debate on the issues of soil management and soil processes, and to educate those farmers who want to understand the chemical, physical and biological processes in soils and how to apply that knowledge.

I see a role for the branches of ASSSI to set up forums or educational days (for a small fee to cover costs), perhaps in collaboration with like-minded groups such as ASPAC (Australasian Soil and Plant Analysis Council) and FIFA (Fertilizer Industry Federation of Australia), where the issues of concern could be discussed and assistance given to those who wish to be helped. A list of courses and course providers could be published on the web page and in *Profile*, so members can pro-actively provide such services where an opportunity exists. Please write to the editor if you have a view on this issue.

I hope to see many of you in Christchurch in December at the Soil 2000 joint conference of the NZSSS and ASSSI.

Graham Price



From the editor's desk

Once again thanks to all the contributors and advertisers who have filled this issue. Your efforts are appreciated by the entire membership.

The revenue raised through advertising in *Profile* is small, but it makes a substantial contribution to our ability to continue communicating in this format. At the same time, advertisers have access to a targeted and captive audience. Next year we will be looking for another business to secure the back page advertising on *Profile*. The last seven issues have been utilised by Incitec Ltd and Environmental and Earth Sciences Pty Ltd, and we have appreciated their support. It would be helpful if members could bring to the attention of businesses they use, the benefits of *Profile* as a vehicle to promote their products and services.

The countdown is also underway for the joint NZSSS/ASSSI conference Soil 2000. For those of you who will be attending, I look forward to seeing you there. For those who are unable to make it, look out for a complete coverage of the conference in the next issue of *Profile*.

Jonnie White



Letters

The Editor *Profile*,

The documents circulated in relation to the CPSS scheme require some comment and as an ex government scientist (currently a private consultant), a current member of the SA state committee for both AIAST and ASSSI and an ex president of ASSSI(SA) as well as a CPSS and a CPAG I am in a good position to know what is going on. Yes, I do have my muddy boots firmly planted in both camps and as someone who pays nearly \$1000 a year to be an accredited member of both organisations with indemnity insurance, I do have some complaints about how the system is run.

My position? I do not think that ASSSI should 'go it alone' because the arguments in favour of this path are based on a number of gross simplifications which would cause the failure of the scheme. My preferred path is to stick with the AIAST scheme, but make AIAST do what they contracted to do. The AIAST is currently NOT a functional organisation but many of its members are trying to correct that problem.

Why? The reality is that the number of scientists in Australia who consider themselves to be 'soil scientists' is small and decreasing. The assumption that students who study soils within a 'natural sciences' course will want to be accredited as soil scientists is silly. They will want accreditation from a group which is large enough to properly promote the qualification. I know of three separate organisations which are considering setting up their own accreditation schemes - one of them in the natural science 'environmental' area may even be big enough to actually go it alone. There is a critical mass below which there is no point in having accreditation - it is after all, just a form of advertising. It will cost a fortune to effectively advertise a CPSS scheme against the plethora of similar schemes being planned at the moment.

Do we have the numbers to go it alone? No. Like all statistics, those presented in the 'discussion' paper with the questionnaire are open to alternative interpretation. Of 179 CPSS members there are 60 dual CPAG+CPSS who probably work in agriculture most of the time. Very few of these would remain in the CPSS if ASSSI split from AIAST because at the

moment they get both accreditation's for the price of one and would go with the bigger organisation. Of the remaining 108, about 30 will be soil surveyors working for the wine industry - they will go to CPAG. About 30 will be soil scientists working in agriculture who could get by better with a CPAG if they had thought to apply for it. The remaining 30 are government scientists who don't 'need' accreditation but who have supported the scheme because they think it's a good idea. The remaining few will be the soil scientists working outside agriculture on whom the 'go it alone' scheme relies.

The only way to provide accreditation for small groups (< 5000 !) is much as is proposed by the AIAST 'entity' scheme where there is a number of independently administered specialty accreditations within an umbrella scheme with the office work and general promotion managed centrally where there can be economies of scale. The accreditation of individuals and accreditation criteria would be managed by the specialty organisations - AS IN THE CURRENT SCHEME - WE not the AIAST are responsible for who gets accredited and why - and we have not done it very well yet. How long is it since your state CPSS accreditation committee met ???

I agree that the AIAST takes a large amount of money from the accreditation scheme and seems to provide very little in return but the AIAST members pay a lot more than ASSSI for membership and are very aware of problems and are working on them. It is happening, the AIAST signed up more than 50 new CPAG's last year en masse from consulting companies (many of them SHOULD have been CPSS as well - if the ASSSI were on the ball).

My advice. 1. Get the ASSSI house in order in relation to the accreditation of soil scientists. Aside from the promotional aspects, most of the problems listed in the discussion document are (and will always be) the job of VOLUNTEERS from the membership of the ASSSI. Oversight of accreditation requirements is a task which can ONLY be undertaken by those who are most experienced in the discipline. By definition, they are senior scientists and a \$150 fee is not going to pay for much of their time - this task must be a job for volunteers - in exactly the way that refereeing of journal articles is done by volunteers - it is part of the job.

2. Start talking to the AIAST managing council, comprising the presidents of the AIAST branches in each state (listed in 'Agricultural Science' journal). These people are responsible for the functioning of AIAST, but mostly have not heard about the ASSSI problems.

3. Start talking to the Australian Association of

Agricultural Consultants (ACCC). This is a sub group within the AIAST which has problems almost identical to the ASSSI in that their main interest is in making the accreditation scheme work.

4. Hasten slowly! We are discussing the future of soil science as a discipline and a qualification in Australia. While discussions of these problems have been going on in the national executive for some time, no members of that executive have seen fit to keep members informed. Specifically, there has been NO attempt to stimulate discussion in PROFILE which I would consider as a very necessary precursor to the current 'ballot'. Action on this matter is going to require full support of the membership, whichever approach is chosen - that support must be generated by an information flow.

Yours sincerely,
Cliff Hignett, Soil Water Solutions

Ed: For more information on the Accreditation Subcommittee report see page x.

Profile welcomes letters, particularly those which promote debate and discussion. Please send contributions to the editor.

MAKE SURE YOU ARE PROTECTED

If you or your branch are organising an event you MUST notify the federal executive, to guarantee insurance cover.

An event is any activity other than ordinary meetings - workshops, training sessions, and ESPECIALLY field trips.

Send an outline of the activities involved, the time, date and venue of the event to:

David Lester
Incitec Ltd, PO Box 623 Toowoomba QLD 4350
tel 07 4639 7403 fax 07 4639 7410
David.Lester@incitec.com.au
Please notify David at least one week before the event.

Centre for Groundwater Studies



*We have become accustomed to the belief that the most common sources of freshwater on our planet are from rivers, lakes and dams, with a less obvious and minor source being from beneath the ground. The underground component is extremely important. At any one time less than 3% of the available freshwater on our planet is stored above the ground, and more than 97% is stored below the ground. Surface water being more visible is more easily understood. Groundwater being more hidden, is often shrouded in mystery and superstition. **Groundwater** is subsurface water saturating the pores of soil or rock. (From: Colin Hazel's "Groundwater Hydraulics" and Water Care III Glossary web site.)*

The Centre for Groundwater Studies (CGS) is an international cooperative research and education venture focussed on processes of groundwater recharge, discharge, contamination, remediation and management. It addresses major land and water resources issues in Australia and internationally through interdisciplinary research by its member organisations.

The Centre's work includes:

- Contract Research and Development
- Postgraduate education
- Specialist advice and consulting
- Specialist training

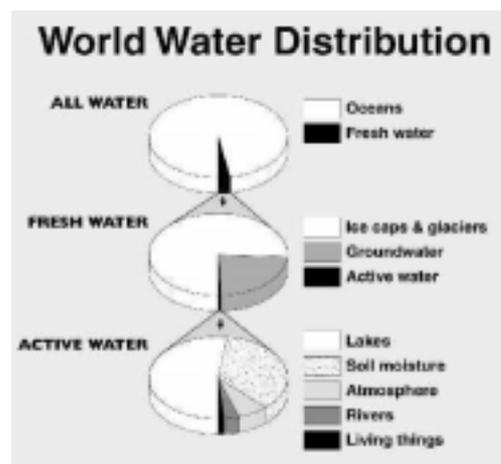
In the area of specialist training the **Centre for Groundwater Studies** organizes a Short Course Program of groundwater fundamentals, presented at 3 levels, for people working in a range of natural resource areas:

1. *Australian Groundwater Schools*...5 days, for natural resource professionals.
2. *Getting to Know Groundwater* .. 3 days, for managers, planners and technicians.
3. *ABCs of Groundwater*..... 1 day, for community environmental groups.

Presenters for for the CGS Short Course Program include practicing hydrogeologists and specialists who have hands-on experience with groundwater management, and by specialists in industry, universities, government and research agencies such as CSIRO.

Attendees come from a range of backgrounds including research; engineering; groundwater policy and management; environment consulting; mining; agriculture; planning; landcare; environmental science; community environment groups; farming; education.

For further information about the CGS Short Course Program see the flyer inserts in this issue of PROFILE.



For more information contact **Trevor Pillar** at CGS:
Phone: 61 8 8201 5634 **Fax:** 61 8 8201 5635 **Email:** trevor.pillar@flinders.edu.au **Web:** <http://www.groundwater.com.au>

Maurice Mulcahy Prescott Medallist *from page 1*

Dr Mulcahy is particularly recognised for his ability to bridge the substantial gaps between science and policy makers, through improved communication and by searching for common areas. This was most prominently demonstrated in his work on land use in south-west of Western Australia during the late 1970's and early 1980's, which would go on to influence the W.A. government's policies on environment and land management. However it was developed throughout a substantial career in both science and administration.

Maurice Mulcahy is an English west countryman - born in Plymouth and educated initially in Bristol and Bath. The outbreak of the second world war was to interrupt his education and he joined the Royal Navy - though he navigated planes rather than ships during his five year's service. Upon discharge, he resumed his education at the University of Aberdeen where, at 28, he graduated with a Bachelor of Science in forestry.

After four years as a scientific officer at the Macaulay Institute in Aberdeen, he joined the CSIRO Division of Soils based at the Waite Agricultural Research Institute at the University of Adelaide. Soon after he moved to Perth to head the Division's Western Australian group where he contributed to soil science research, administration and education for over two decades.

Dr Mulcahy's major personal contribution to soil science is in soil survey and its extension, mainly on the areas of landform and topographic relationships in the south-west of Western Australia where laterite residues and soils derived from laterite are a dominant feature, and was achieved during these years with the CSIRO. These soil survey and geomorphology studies formed the background to the seminal and extensive studies of the CSIRO Regional Laboratory on soil salinity which have delineated the salinity problem in Western Australia from both the site and landscape point of view, and the consequences for stream salinity.

Dr Mulcahy's PhD was completed through the University of Western Australia and for many years lectured to students there in the Faculty of Agriculture. Later he was also conferred a degree of Doctor of Science *honoris causa* from Murdoch University for his life long achievements as a research scientist and environmental manager and his contributions to the University on task forces, inquiries and committees.

In 1976, after more than 20 years with the

CSIRO, Dr Mulcahy made a career move to become the Senior Research Scientist and Head of the Special Services Branch of the WA Department of Conservation and Environment. Here he was able to have a major influence on the establishment of the WA government's policies on environment and land management, most notably through the publication of *The Darling System - System 6* (1983). In order to review and update its recommendations on national parks and nature reserves, the Conservation Through Reserves Committee divided the state into 12 systems based on geographic and demographic boundaries. Of these, System 6 - the intensively used area stretching from Moore River to the Blackwood River - presented special challenges. Dr Mulcahy played an integral role in the complex committee system which had the task of identifying areas of conservation value and reconciling competing land use issues in this region.

His experience in land use management saw him seconded to the Department of Premier and Cabinet in 1983-4 as Director of the Task Force on Land Management. Soon after, he was to continue his work for the natural environment in a different role - as a member of the state's Environment Protection Authority where he made many contributions particularly in working towards consensus in the often controversial area of forest management.

Dr Mulcahy has also served periods as president of the WA Branch and the Federal Council of the ASSSI, and as Vice President of Commission V of the International Society of Soil Science. In 1985 he was appointed as a Member of the Order of Australia, a recognition of this distinguished scientific career and service to land resource management.

Even after retirement, Dr Mulcahy continued to be involved in resource management issues, such as chairing a Committee of Inquiry into die-back research in Western Australia. In his own words, "looking back, I'm not sure it's good for one's peaceful retirement to be involved in issues that remain in the public eye."

Note: Much of the material in this article is adapted from the Prescott Medal Nomination including a Citation for the award of D.Sc. *honoris causa* and a contribution by Dr Mulcahy to *Reflections on 20 Years* (1991) published by the Environmental Protection Authority.



Branch news

WESTERN AUSTRALIA Soils 2000, Triennial Conference of ASSSI, WA Branch

The triennial conference of the WA Branch of the Society was held at the Muresk Institute of Agriculture over the period 11-13th July 2000. The conference followed on from the four previous conferences that commenced in 1988. For the first time, the conference was held in conjunction with the Environmental Consultants Association (WA Branch). During the conference, 32 oral papers and six posters were presented over two days with the third day being a field trip to several locations in the Avon Valley that were indicative of problems facing land managers in the medium rainfall areas of the south-west of Western Australia. Dr Graeme Robertson, Chief Executive officer of AGWEST (previously the WA Department of Agriculture) delivered the keynote address, which focused on the theme of the Conference - "Making our Science More Useable".

A total of 71 people attended the conference over the three days and came from a wide cross-section of WA soil scientists and from overseas. Countries represented included India, Poland, Brazil, Italy, Spain, Indonesia, the People's Republic of China, New Caledonia and France.



ABOVE: Part of the audience at the WA Branch's Soils 2000 Conference at the Muresk Institute of Agriculture.

Copies of the Conference Proceedings are still available at a cost of \$27.50. For further information, contact Dr Mike Wong at CSIRO Plant Industry, Private Bag PO, Wembley, Western Australia (phone 08 9333 6299, fax 08 9387 8991, email m.wong@ccmar.csiro.au).



ABOVE: Dr Lidia Sas, visiting scientist from Poland, addresses the WA Branch Soils 2000 conference.



ABOVE: Prof. Bob Gilkes, University of Western Australia inspects a soil pit during a presentation by Derk Bakker, AGWEST, during the conference field trip.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA Prize Awarded for Thesis

Dr Riaz Ahmad, who graduated from the Department of Soil and Water, University of Adelaide this year, has been awarded Harold Woolhouse Prize (A\$1000) for best PhD thesis for the year 2000, jointly with Dr Sandy Dickson. Riaz was supervised by Dr Rai Kookana of CSIRO Land and Water and Dr Angus Alston of University of Adelaide for his thesis

on “Sorption and release of pesticides in soils: The role of chemical nature of soil organic matter”. Riaz is currently working as a Postdoctoral Fellow with AgResearch, Hamilton, New Zealand.

Visitor From Slovakia

Dr. Peter Komadel, from the Slovak Academy of Sciences, Institute of Inorganic Chemistry, in Bratislava, Slovakia, visited CSIRO Land and Water in Adelaide for three weeks (August-September, 2000). Peter is the head of the Department of Hydrosilicates. Research specialties at the department encompass the characterisation and chemical modifications of smectites. While visiting, Peter gave two seminars; one on the acid activation of bentonites and one on the catalytic properties of activated smectites.

Groundtruthing Effort

A combined effort in August by researchers from the Universities of SA (David Bruce and Alan Forghani) and Adelaide (Iain Grierson and Megan Lewis) and CSIRO Land and Water (Rob Fitzpatrick, Richard Merry and Phil Davies) resulted in a busy day in the field collecting ground truth data on a 120 km transect north-east of Adelaide to the Murray River for the PACRIM2000 mission (NASA and JPL). The synthetic aperture radar and hyperspectral data will be used to obtain detailed information for soil and landscape degradation, soil and rock geochemistry and mallee vegetation biomass estimates and classification.

VICTORIA

Merri Creek Excursion

In 1984 the late Jeff Jenkin and Jim Rowan planned two excursions to study the soil-landform history and land types of the Merri Creek and Maribyrnong River Catchments. Studies of soil-landform development can help identify and assess land types, soils and processes, all of which are relevant in the use of land and its response in the context of catchment management. This excursion is the first of the two, with the second to be held at a later date. Tony Weatherley reports.

“On August 11th 2000, we met in the carpark of the Bridge Inn, about 25 of us, on a cold, bleak and wind swept day (unusual for Melbourne of course). No-one even contemplated the Inn, we were here for the geology, geomorphology and pedology.

“Jim Rowan and Nick Uren were our guides to the wonders of the Merri Creek catchment, some 45 minutes to the north of the CBD. Along for the ride were two geologists, Bernie Joyce from the University of Melbourne and Chris Gray from La Trobe University.



ABOVE: Jim Rowan (foreground) discusses soil profile development on the 'stony rises' of the basalt plain.

“As the rain intensified Nick explained there were only 19 sites to view today (no-one even contemplated the Inn). We set off in convoy to see soils developed mostly on recent basalt and Silurian and Devonian mudstones.

“However, the trip was not to be without controversy. Jim hypothesised that the shallow soils of the stony rises were remnants of an old lateritic profile. The geologists disagreed, saying the pisolitic material was just basalt weathering differentially and giving rise to ferruginous coatings on the basalt surface. There was considerable debate around these differing ideas, with the many experts gathered putting their views forward.

“During the lunch break at the Craigieburn shopping centre a general meeting of the Victorian Branch of ASSSI (flush with proxies) confirmed



ABOVE: Nick Uren attempts a tricky dance step on some Silurian sediments.

changes to the 1956 by-laws of the branch. There were Gilgai's after lunch, exposures of yellow sodosols and a finely structured red chromosol(?) on the upper slopes of the catchment (overlooking the Maribyrrong catchment, our next tour).

"At site19 it was still raining and the wind was howling off the basalt plain. There was evidence of secondary salinisation and tertiary frostbite. A well organised and informative tour, but the Hume beckoned. However a wrong turn saw us go over the Hume and back via the Bridge Inn (or did we?). Thankfully everyone arrived home - eventually."

QUEENSLAND

Soils Refresher Training Course

The Queensland Branch is running a 2-day refresher soils training course for professionals and land managers to update their soils knowledge. The course titled Understanding Soils, Soils Data and Land Management Applications consists of presentations from government and industry staff from the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Primary Industries, Incitec Ltd, Landloch, CSIRO and the University of Queensland.

Topics covered include soil fertility and productivity, land inventory and GQAL, soil biodiversity and

interactions, organic carbon, soil sodicity, salinity and acidity, acid sulfate soils, water balance modelling, infiltration and solute transport, erosion and off-site impacts of sediment movement, effluent application and soil compaction. The program also includes a field trip where soil descriptions and field measurements of soil properties will be presented and discussed.

The course is being held in Toowoomba on the 1-2 November 2000 and a course proceedings will be published.

Deadlines Change

Please note that submission deadlines for Profile have changed from 30th of the month prior to publication, to the 15th of the month prior to publication. Late submitted articles have been causing a few production problems and I hope that the earlier deadlines might help to get articles in, and Profile out, on time.



EARTHTECH
CONSULTANTS & LABORATORIES
GEOTECHNICAL & ENVIRONMENTAL

'Down to Earth People'

- **Acid Sulfate Soils** - Investigations, Management Plans & Audits.
- **Soil Erosion** - Erosion/Dispersion Assessment & Studies
- **Contaminated Sites** - Assessment, Remediation & Management.
- **Soil Chemistry** - Soil Salinity/Sodicity Assessments & Surface Water, Groundwater Monitoring.
- **Commercial Mixes & Topsoils** - Testing & Consulting
- **Environmental Management** - EMPs and Impact Assessments.

- Experienced Advice*
- Comprehensive Skills*
- Integrated Service*
- Partnership Approach*
- Whole of Project Support*
- Risk Management*

www.earthtech.com.au - ph.(07) 3343 3166

Brisbane, Gold Coast, PNG

Accreditation for Soil Scientists

- your say in getting it right

This is a condensed version of a report tabled by the Accreditation Subcommittee to the Federal Council at its most recent meeting. Accredited members have been asked to comment on the report by mail. This is the chance for all other members to have their say on this issue.

One of the most significant issues occupying Federal Council over the last four years has been the accreditation scheme for soil scientists. The existing CPSS scheme has been jointly operated by the AIAST and the ASSSI for the last three years. However, concerns have been expressed by both CPSS and ordinary members regarding the suitability, flexibility and level of service being provided by the existing accreditation arrangements.

In an effort to address some of these concerns, the ASSSI Federal Council established an Accreditation Subcommittee in August 1999 "to monitor and review the operation of the CPSS accreditation scheme and seek input on the operation of the scheme from the Society's members." This subcommittee has recently presented a detailed discussion paper to Federal Council from which the following is extracted.

What should be the components of an accreditation scheme?

Across the various professions, one could expect an accredited professional to be a member of a scheme or organisation that provided for:

1. Adherence to a code of ethics;
2. A mechanism for complaints against a Certified Professional to be made and to be assessed, with provision for a range of penalties if the complaint is found to be justified;
3. A mechanism for screening applicants for Certified Professional status to ensure that they meet required levels of knowledge and experience; and
4. A requirement for continuing professional development.

What should accredited soil scientists get from membership of such a scheme?

The bottom line is some form of commercial advantage. Accredited members should be able to expect that:

- (a) They might receive preference over non-certified professionals when tendering for work.

- (b) Their knowledge and qualifications will be readily accepted by clients (potential and current) and the general public.

- (c) Their membership of the accreditation scheme may provide them with information or access to training that enhances their work skills or effectiveness.

- (d) In some cases, accreditation may aid in promotion within their workplace.

- (e) Their name would appear on a database (which is widely publicised and promoted) to improve their opportunities of finding work.

- (f) The accreditation rating would be widely recognised and publicised.

Note that the above implies responsibilities on the part of the organisation running the accreditation scheme to:

- Negotiate with state and federal government departments to ensure that the accredited status is required or recognised for certain specified activities;
- Provide continuing information (e.g. on best practice) and/or training opportunities to accredited members; and
- To maintain and to actively promote a database of accredited members to a range of relevant client groups.

Equally, the organisation would be responsible for:

- Assessment of new members;
- Processing any complaints that were registered; and
- Issues of on-going development of the accreditation scheme.

Essentially, these are the minimum benefits that accredited members should receive if they are to receive value for money for their membership fees. Other benefits that could be made available to members include:

- Maintenance of job/professional work registers; and
- Negotiation of competitive rates for insurance and travel.

Appraisal of current CPSS scheme

The current scheme does not meet some of the requirements listed above. Qualification for CPSS has not been based on competency. While there is potential for members to lose accreditation for unethical behaviour, there is no clearly documented mechanism for registering or dealing with complaints. It is highly unlikely that the existing scheme will ever provide comment or information on codes of practice, or that it will develop and actively market a database of accredited members. After several years, little has been done.

Currently, \$145/year from the membership fee paid by each CPSS is paid to the AIAST. For the 108 CPSS members who currently pay through the ASSSI, that totals almost \$16,000. The potential income from the other 71 CPSS members who currently pay through the AIAST represents an additional \$10,000 per annum. The overall total is close to being sufficient funding to support a staff member dedicated to the management and promotion of the CPSS scheme.

The amount involved is excessive if all it is used for is to keep a register of CPSS and their annual payments. However, it should be noted that the current cost of CPSS registration is not necessarily high when compared with fees charged by other organisations. However, those organisations provide considerably greater services in return. Perhaps most importantly, although the current agreement enables the ASSSI to have input to the CPSS scheme and to recommend modifications to it, such changes have ultimately, to be approved by AIAST.

Where to from here?

Can a small organisation such as the ASSSI run its own accreditation scheme? The answer, we think, is that we cannot afford not to run it. In general, there is a need for the ASSSI to become more pro-active, which may mean increases in both membership costs and benefits. The Society currently struggles to maintain a central office and to provide sufficient support for an executive officer (we have been doing this for the last two years by using our capital reserves).

Operation of an accreditation scheme by ASSSI would:

- (a) provide funding to broaden the scope and role of central office staffing, and may eventually allow some economies of scale;
- (b) provide funding for the accreditation scheme to be actively promoted, which would also greatly

enhance the appeal of the ASSSI to potential members, and (if adequately promoted) could lead to a major increase in the membership of the ASSSI;

- (c) have potential to reduce perceptions that soil science is solely linked to agriculture, possibly increasing the appeal of accreditation to people working in non-agricultural land management; and
- (d) have potential to increase ASSSI membership.

There is clearly considerable potential workload for quite a number of ASSSI members in developing a new accreditation scheme, and no doubt one concern will be whether ASSSI has the critical mass to make the system work. However, there is also the point that increases in ordinary and accredited membership resulting from a well-managed and promoted system is one of the few ways in which ASSSI can develop that mass.

Your say

As part of the Council's commitment to provide opportunities for input to decision making, the Council is seeking your say on the future of accreditation for soil scientists. In particular, comments are sought by the 17th November in relation to the following questions:

- Do you agree with the proposal for ASSSI to establish its own accreditation scheme?
(Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree, Strongly Disagree)
- Are you considering applying for accredited status under the existing system?
(Yes/No) If "no", please give brief reasons.
- Would you apply for accredited status under a new ASSSI operated accreditation scheme?
(Yes/No) If "no", please give brief reasons.
- What advantages/disadvantages do you see with ASSSI establishing its own scheme?

Please send your response to Ms Alice Bass, ASSSI Executive Officer, PO Box 396, Dawe Park, SA 5041, fax: 08 8351 5184 or email: abass@camtech.net.au

Full copies of the subcommittee report may also be obtained on request from the Society's Executive Officer.

THE PLANT NUTRITION AWARDS 2001

THE PLANT NUTRITION TRUST has been established to encourage and promote research and technology transfer in the mineral nutrition of plants, soil fertility and fertiliser and soil amendment technology, and includes areas where these impinge on other fields such as plant breeding.

THE TRUST invites applications for awards to assist in carrying out a study tour or to attend a conference or such other activity related to the stated objectives. In making an award an applicant's scholastic achievement and recent contribution to industry, research or technology transfer, and their potential for future contribution will be considered. The amount of each award will depend on circumstances but is likely to be under \$2,000.

In 2001 there are to be three categories of awards:

- **THE JACK LONERAGAN AWARDS.**
Several awards will be given to support attendance by Australians at the International Plant Nutrition Colloquium to be held in Hannover, Germany in mid 2001.
- **THE ALF ANDERSON AWARDS.**
Applicants must be actively involved in work in any of the areas of plant nutrition mentioned above.
- **THE SAM TISDALE AWARDS.**
Applications should have a strong emphasis on sulfur nutrition of plants.

Applicants must be Australian citizens or permanent residents based in Australia, except that for the Sam Tisdale Award, Australian citizens may sponsor candidates from Asia and the south west Pacific region.

Applications close end October 2000

Application forms can be obtained from: Dr Peter Randall, CSIRO Plant Industry
GPO Box 1600 Canberra ACT 2601
Fax: (02) 6246 5000 e-mail: P.Randall@pi.csiro.au

About the Plant Nutrition Trust - The Management Committee includes people associated with the Fertiliser Industry Federation of Australia, the Australian Institute of Agricultural Science and Technology, the Australian Society of Soil Science, the Australian Society of Plant Physiologists, the Australasian Soil and Plant Analysis Council and several co-opted members. The funds come from surpluses from International conferences held in Australia and donations from The Sulphur Institute, ASPAC and individuals.

Further donations are welcome.

PLANT NUTRITION AWARDS 2000

The Plant Nutrition Trust has made three Alf Anderson Awards for 2000. Each of the recipients will use their award to attend the International Symposium on Phosphorus Cycling in the Plant-Soil Continuum to be held in Beijing, China during September.

Dr Alan Richardson (CSIRO Plant Industry) will talk about his work on phytase genes and phosphorus acquisition from phytate by plants. **Associate Professor Mark Adams** (University of Western Australia) will present a review on P-cycling in natural ecosystems. **Dr Caixian Tang** (University of Western Australia) will present papers on cluster root formation and function in white lupins and on the effects of P deficiency on growth, nodule function and proton release in beans.

There were no Sam Tisdale (sulfur-related) awards made this year.

Life Member Profile

This month we meet Colin Williams, long-time member of the ACT branch, and now residing in Queensland, who was awarded Honorary Life Membership of the ASSI in 1996.

Colin Williams grew up at Mt Barker in the Adelaide Hills (which incidentally is also the 'birth-place' of subterranean clover). He attended the local primary and high schools before completing his senior years at St Peters College in Adelaide.

After high school, Colin took a job as a laboratory attendant under C. S. Piper in the Agricultural Chemistry laboratory at the Waite Campus, while studying part-time to attain a science degree in Chemistry. Graduating in 1941 during World War II, he worked at the Salisbury Explosives factory until late 1943, after which he returned to the Agricultural Chemistry laboratory and was appointed Assistant Chemist.

In 1950, Colin moved to join the CSIRO Division of Plant Industry in Canberra with which he stayed until retirement in 1982. Upon retiring Colin, and his wife, Marjory, moved to Queensland to be close to their extended family.

Career Highlights

One of Colin's early research projects was to characterise the residual nature of phosphates in wheat-growing soils. Previous to this work, fixation of phosphate was considered a permanent loss mechanism, and therefore caused inefficiencies in phosphorus application. Colin's work, however, showed that phosphate fixation improved the overall phosphorus fertility of soils and provided residual phosphorus for following crops.

Later at CSIRO, Colin was responsible for supervising the Division's studies on soil fertility. Early work concerned the build-up of organic matter and nitrogen and the accumulation of phosphorus and sulfur in soils under subterranean clover which result in considerable improvement in the over-all fertility of the soil. In the 1960s this led to further studies on the nature of soil sulfur and later on the increases in soil acidity under pasture.

Involvement with ASSI

Colin was one of the foundation members of the ASSI and took part in numerous discussions in Canberra developing the Articles of Association. During the 1970s he served terms as president of the ACT Branch and as president of the Federal Council. In 1982 he received the Prescott medal for an outstanding contribution to soil science.

Future of Soil Science

Colin believes that soil science has an important future from both a conservation and an agricultural point of view. Problems arising from past (and future) exploitation and mismanagement of our soils (such as the current problems of salinity and acidity) will continue to emerge and soil science has an essential part to play in their correction and prevention.



ABOVE: Colin Williams in London in 1966. This photo was taken while on a visit to attend an ISSS conference on soil fertility in Aberdeen.

ASSI Honorary for Life Members

Peter Charman
Max Churchward
Bruce Cockroft
N. Collis-George
Ian Fergus

John Freney
Gordon Hallsworth
Cedric Hawkins
George Hubble
John Loveday

Tim Marshall
Bill McArthur
Don McIntyre
Keith Northcote
Jim Quirk

Ian Sargent
Charles Stephens
Robert van der Graaff
Stan Waring
Colin Williams

NEW MEMBERS

The ASSSI would like to welcome the following new members:

Surender Mann

B Sc M Sc PhD
Chemistry Ctre (WA)
WA Branch
Areas of Interest:
heavy metals,
contaminated site
remediation,
greenhouse gases

Suzanne Reichman

B Land Res Sc (Hons)
University of Qld
Qld Branch
Areas of interest:
plant nutrition,
metal toxicity

Graham Osler

B Sc PhD
University of WA
WA Branch
Areas of interest:
soil biology

Najib Ullah Ahmady

B Sc PG Dip (Env Mg)
University of
Melbourne
Vic Branch
Areas of interest:
indexing P in dairy
catchments

William Morrell

B Sc (Soil Sc) B Sc
(Earth Sc) PhD
University of
Queensland
Vic Branch
Areas of interest:
mine rehabilitation,
acid mine drainage

James Taylor

B Sc (Agr)
University of Sydney
NSW Branch
Areas of interest:
geostatistics, soil-
vine interactions in
viticulture

Dan Yousaf

M Sc (Hons)
Qld Dept Nat Res
Qld Branch
Areas of interest:
soil fertility and
salinity

Hsieh Hsien Lim

B Sc (Hons)
University of WA
WA Branch
Areas of interest:
mineraology, soil
chemistry

Kieran Byrne

B Sc (Earth Sc)
KBL soil consultants
Qld Branch
Areas of interest:
geomorphology,
landslip, foundation
design,
environmental
remediation

Judy Eastham

B Sc (Hons) PhD
Scientific Consulting
WA Branch
Areas of interest:
soil, plant, water
relationships, soil
physics

Rudraraju Vijay Kumar

B Sc M Sc
University of WA
WA Branch
Areas of interest:
hydrology and
ecology of
microphytic soil
crusts of saline areas

Uswah Hasanah

M Ag Sc
Adelaide University
SA Branch
Areas of interest:
soil physics

Zhi Ling Zeng

B Sc (Hons)
University of Qld
Qld Branch
Areas of interest:
bioavailability of
heavy metals in
mine spoils and
contaminated soils

Gillian Kopittke

B Land Res Sc
University of Qld
Qld Branch
Areas of interest:
soil erosion, rainfall
simulation

Alisa Heck

B Agr Sc (Hons)
Incitec Ltd
Qld Branch
Areas of interest:
soil and plant
analysis

Nicolyn Short

B Sc (Hons)
University of WA
WA Branch
Areas of interest:
postgraduate
studies

David Mitchell

B Agr Sc
CSIRO
Qld Branch
Areas of interest:
field drainage
studies, water-table
modelling

Claire Cote

Ph D
CSIRO
Qld Branch
Areas of interest:
surface and sub-
surface hydrology,
contaminant
transport

Alison Vieritz

B Agr Sc (Hons)
Qld Department of
Natural Resources
Qld Branch
Areas of interest:
effluent irrigation
scheme design, soil
water hydrology

**A copy of the ASSSI
membership
application form is
available from
Executive Officer
Alice Bass.**



Book reviews

This issue, Scott Black from Charles Sturt University reviews two new educational products dealing with soil related topics.

Video: 'Salt of the Earth - Farming and Sustaining the Soil beyond 2000'
Produced and distributed by Media Associates for the GRDC. Distributed on VHS Videotape with a running time of 35 minutes and targeted at Secondary (Society and the Environment, Geography, Science, Technology and Political Science) and Tertiary students, graingrowers, and a general audience.

Reviewer: Scott Black, Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga
Email: sblack@midas.mit.csu.edu.au

The video introduces the problem of deterioration of soils with emphasis on erosion, salinity and acidity with some discussion of biodiversity. It is wide ranging, addressing issues on one tape that are available on the several more specialised tapes. The video is a mixture of presentations by experts, in field demonstrations and three case studies covering erosion on the Darling Downs, salinity in western Australia and in the lower reaches of the Murray River. What is especially different about the package is that it is accompanied by a Study Guide for teachers. The guide includes a summary of the issues, video-timed cued questions and discussion points, a glossary of terms (for a general audience), the decision making process, how does the video fit into the curriculum and a bibliography and possible resource material.

An example of a question and discussion point was as follows - one farmer stated, "We're putting in 20,000 trees for biodiversity". Students are then asked "to define biodiversity and to find out more about Australian biodiversity. How have we been losing biodiversity? This could lead to a discussion about the species loss in Australia which has been very high in the past 200 years by international standards. Are Australians on or off farm familiar

with or concerned about biodiversity? etc"

This is the first video where this has been done and will make it considerably more attractive to secondary school teachers.

The soil science is not covered in depth but then the video never pretended to do this. Does it meet its audience needs? For the secondary schools I believe it does. The video provides a segment on landscape formation for the geographers. It uses case studies to emphasise the need for groups of farmers to work together and with government agencies to manage the problem of salinity for the study of science in society as well as the need for political leadership for the management of salinity. It would suit a general audience with an interest in the issues of sustainability. It is probably too general to be useful for the tertiary teaching.

Roy Slaven (of "Roy and HG" fame) narrates the video. His style of comedy introduces the video but after this the commentary is excellent. You will either love the start or it will leave you cold as it did me.

Scott Black

'Fertilizers - Senior Chemistry'
F. Jeffery (1999) published by Orica Ltd.

Reviewer: Scott Black, Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga
Email: sblack@midas.mit.csu.edu.au

This well presented 55 page booklet written by Faye Jeffery for Orica Limited is mainly targeted at senior secondary school students studying chemistry and their teachers. It would be a useful reference for introductory subjects at a University level where fertilizers are being considered. To this end it tries to serve two 'masters'.

Chapter 2 covers the chemistry of the processes involved in the manufacture of the common N and P fertilizers. This chapter is a highlight of the booklet as it is an easily accessible source of this material for the main target audience. In particular complete equations are provided for each of the processes. Thus it provides the link between the science being studied by the students and its direct application to industry.

Chapters 1, 3 and 4 provide a broad coverage of the fertilizer industry, the use of fertilisers and the influence of fertilizers on the environment. The last two of these provide a general description of the topics but little basic chemistry. For the main target audience this provides background material to put fertilizer use in perspective. There would be insufficient detail in these sections for University level subjects.

Scott Black

Have you paid your fees for 2000?

The following list of members have not yet paid for their Year 2000 ASSSI membership fees as of **September 13th 2000**. If you have paid in the meantime, please ignore this and thank you for your payment. If you have not, please contact me as soon as possible to arrange payment. The membership fees for the Year 2000 are listed below.

If you are a dual CPag/CPSS member and have paid your accreditation fee via the AIAST, to keep your ASSSI membership and CPSS status you must pay the ASSSI Federal fee plus appropriate Branch fee. You should have received a form from the AIAST for this quite a few months ago. Please contact me if you did not.

If you have changed your postal address and did not inform the Society please contact me for a replacement Year 2000 Renewal Notice (originally sent in December 1999). Also, if your membership status has changed (ie. from Student to Ordinary), please let us know.

If you note that a particular member listed has changed address, please contact me so that I can change their details and send a replacement Year 2000 renewal notice to them.

Our Society relies on prompt payment of Membership fees to remain viable. Those who do not pay for their Year 2000 fees and who also do not pay their Year 2001 membership by 31st March 2001 will risk being removed from membership of the Society.

Alice Bass, Executive Officer.

ASSSI FEES FOR 2000 (incl. GST after 1 July)

Branch	Ordinary	Retired/Student
Qld	\$59.85	\$28.35
NSW	\$68.25	\$29.40
Riv	\$60.90	\$21.00 (retired) \$23.10 (student)
SA	\$63.00	\$23.10
Vic	\$57.75	\$23.10
ACT	\$57.75	\$26.25
WA	\$63.00	\$25.20 (retired) \$21.00 (student)
Int	\$52.50	\$21.00
IUSS m'ship	\$15.00	\$15.00

NAME			LOCATION		
Victoria			South Australia		
Fouad	Abo	GREENSBOROUGH	Riaz	Ahmad	GLEN OSMOND
Catherine	Botta	DOOKIE COLLEGE	Angus	Alston	GLEN OSMOND
Austin	Brown	WERRIBEE	Alfred	Cass	CALIFORNIA
David	Campbell	MOUNT ELIZA	Robert	Fitzpatrick	GLEN OSMOND
David	Cummings	BOX HILL	N	Fleming	GLEN OSMOND
James	Hadwen	HAWTHORN	Will	Gates	GLEN OSMOND
Francis	Henry	HORSHAM	Nick	Hillier	HYNAM
Wendy	Hopkins	TATURA	T	Kentish	HAMILTON
Peter	Hopmans	HEIDLEBERG	Geoff	Kew	NIGHTCLIFF
Bruce	Hudgson	MELTON	Michael	Laffan	PERTH
Lindsay	Jones	KEW	Michael	McLaughlin	GLEN OSMOND
Farid	Kaddous	FRANKSTON	Richard	Merry	GLEN OSMOND
Pamela	Kerry	ABBOTSFORD	Wayne	Meyer	GLEN OSMOND
Andrea	Lindsay	GLEN WAVERLEY	Susan	Olden	LENSWOOD
Jamie	McMaster	BORONIA	D	Plowman	ADELAIDE
Barry	Meehan	MELBOURNE	Tony	Proffitt	NURIOOTPA
David	Pasztaleniec	BUNDOORA	Pichu	Rengasamy	GLEN OSMOND
Abdur	Rab	FRANKSTON	Douglas	Reuter	AULDANA
Hosain	Riazi	TEMPLESTOWE	James	Robinson	TORRENS PARK
Gary	Sheridan	HEIDELBERG	Albert	Rovira	HAWTHORNDENE
Andrew	Smith	PARKVILLE	Benjamin	Thomas	GLEN OSMOND
Michael	Temple-Smith	HOWRAH	Vadakattu	Gupta	GLEN OSMOND
Weijin	Wang	PARKVILLE	Yongguan	Zhu	GLEN OSMOND
John	Williamson	BENDIGO			
Roger	Wrigley	WANGARATTA			

NAME		LOCATION	NAME		LOCATION
Queensland			New South Wales		
Alan	Barton	BRISBANE	Neil	Abraham	NORMANHURST
Dean	Biddle	WYNNUM	Peter	Bacon	CASTLE HILL
Colin	Birch	LAWES	Nelly	Blair	ARMIDALE
Freeman	Cook	INDOOROPILLY	Robert	Bowen	BERKELEY VALE
Ross	Coventry	TOWNSVILLE	Greg	Bowman	PARRAMATTA
Robert	Crossley	PARRAMATTA PARK	Richard	Bush	LISMORE
Peter	Dart	UNI OF QLD	Robert	Carter	NORTH SYDNEY
Terence	Donnollan	BUNDABERG	Timothy	Clune	NORTH BONDI
Anthony	Dowling	VICTORIA POINT	Rachel	Dewar	OYSTER BAY
Sunil	Dutta	TOOWOOMBA	Deidre	Dragovich	SYDNEY
Louise	Edwards	MOOROOKA	Michael	Eddie	WEST KEMPSEY
Francis	Ford	CAPALABA	Dominic	Flanagan	BERRY
Lloyd	Gibson	THALLON	Neil	Griffiths	PATERSON
Michael	Gilbert	TOLGA	Danielle	Hopman	LAVINGTON
Steven	Griffiths	IPSWICH	Martin	Howell	NORTH SYDNEY
Edward	Hanlon	GUMDALE	Reg	Humphreys	CHATSWOOD
Ben	Harms	OXLEY	Leonie	Huxedurp	PARRAMATTA
Stephen	Harper	GATTON	Genevieve	Kelly	BALMAIN
Kylie	Hey	INDOOROPILLY	Dacre	King	ARMIDALE
Raymond	Ison	HOLLAND PARK	John	Lawrie	WELLINGTON
Marianna	Joo	SUNNYBANK	Nha Dinh	Le	SMITHFIELD
Steven	Kerway	MILTON	John	Leys	GUNNEDAH
Gunnar	Kirchhof	TAMWORTH	Peter	Lockwood	ARMIDALE
Bernie	Kirsch	DYSART	Sally	McInnes-Clarke	GOSFORD
Malcolm	Lorimer	TOWNSVILLE	Colin	McKay	CAMDEN
Jeremy	Manders	INDOOROPILLY	Ashley	Mead	COWRA
Desmond	McGarry	INDOOROPILLY	Mark	Mignanelli	NEW LAMBTON HTS
Ronald	McMahon	MAROOCHYDORE	Paul	Milham	CHATSWOOD
Neal	Menzies	ST LUCIA	Allan	Mitchell	ARMIDALE
John	Murtagh	RUNAWAY BAY	Kelvin	Montagu	BEECROFT
Douglas	Parry	EAST BRISBANE	Brian	Murphy	COWRA
Shane	Pointon	INDOOROPILLY	Katie-Jane	Nixon	EASTWOOD
Brian	Prove	MIR/WINNI	Brendan	Roddy	TUMUT
Guixin	Pu	NATHAN	John	Rubsov	LITHGOW
Mohammed	Rahman	ST. LUCIA	Balwant	Singh	SYDNEY
Gavan	Renfrey	SPRING HILL	Peter	Slavich	WOLLONGBAR
Fiona	Robertson	MACKAY	Peter	Staggs	KIRRIBILLI
Lincoln	Rogers	AITKENVALE	Leigh	Sullivan	LISMORE
Mark	Sallaway	BUNDABERG	Fletcher	Townsend	EASTWOOD
Alison	Sands	BALLINA	Graeme	Tupper	ORANGE
Roger	Shaw	INDOOROPILLY	Pamela	Van Oploo	MORTDALE
John	Thompson	TOOWOOMBA	Derek	Yates	BROADWAY
William	Thompson	KARANA DOWNS	Stephen	Young	SCONE
Robin	Thwaites	ST LUCIA	Riverina		
Bill	Ward	THE GAP	Abdul	Bhuiyan	GRIFFITH
Ian	Webb	ATHERTON	Tapas	Biswas	GRIFFITH
Anthony	Whitbread	TOOWOOMBA	Neil	Fettell	CONDOBOLIN
John	Wilkie	ALSTONVILLE	Jane	Hulme	YANCO
Andrew	Williams	MACKAY E	Elizabeth	Humphreys	GRIFFITH
Herb	Williams	KENMORE VILLAGE	Janelle	Jenkins	COOTAMUNDRA
ACT			Neel	Jinadasa	YANCO
Katrina	Cousins	O'CONNOR	Belinda	Lake	YANCO
Rob	Cumming	GOULBURN	James	Pratley	WAGGA WAGGA
Rosemary	Hook	BELGIAN GARDENS	Brendon	Scott	WAGGA WAGGA
Christopher	Moran	CANBERRA	Ary	Van Der Lely	GRIFFITH
Colin	Pain	CANBERRA	Myo	Win	WAGGA WAGGA
Kattemalavadi	Prakash	PHILLIP	WA		
Valerie	Snow	CANBERRA	Richard	Bell	MURDOCH
Richard	Stirzaker	CANBERRA	James	Ferguson	MOUNT HELENA
Frank	Valzano	CANBERRA	Don	Glassford	BULL CREEK
John	Williams	CANBERRA	Annelies	Koning	CITY BEACH
Steven	Zegelin	CANBERRA	Irene	McKissock	NEDLANDS
International			Timothy	Overheu	ALBANY
Gerard	Grealish	SAFAT	Yash	Pal	NEDLANDS
Peter	King	SAFAT	Gottfried	Scholz	ARMADALE
			Keith	Smettem	NEDLANDS
			Peter	Tille	BUNBURY
			Michael	Wong	WEMBLEY

ASSSI Budget

Income and Expenditure Estimates

2001

The Society costs continue to be managed to provide members with as much value for subscription dollar as possible. Most costs for the coming 2001 calendar year are expected to increase slightly over those in 1999 and 2000. However, price increases for a number of items such as insurance, printing of "Profile" and the executive officer salary cannot be absorbed by the Society and will need to be passed onto members.

Budgeted expenditure

Operating budget estimates for the year 2001 are:

Item	Cost	GST	Total
Audit charges	500	50	500
Bank fees	1400	140	1540
Meeting costs	400	40	440
Insurance	1600	160	1760
Internet costs	300	30	330
Postage - subs	700	70	770
Profile (print/post/pack)	14500	1450	15950
Telstra	1200	120	1320
Travel costs	2000	200	2200
Total	23000	2300	25300

Salary costs in 2001 for Society's Executive Officer are expected to be \$23712, plus additional hours for a casual assistant during the peak workload period of subscription processing, to a maximum cost of \$1000. Hence, the total operating expenses of the Society are expected to be approximately \$49000 for the year 2001.

Income estimates

For the Society to remain in a cash neutral position during 2001, the amount of money received must cover the projected budget expenses. Subscriptions were increased during 1999 to reduce the impact of increasing costs, but the increase was insufficient and the Society has run at a deficit for the last two years. This current annual deficit is in the order of \$10 000 and is not sustainable. As subscriptions are the main source of income for the Society, full and prompt payment by members is also required to maintain the Society's financial position.

Recent updating of the membership records has revealed fewer fully financial members than the previous records had shown. Records at the end of 1998 suggested that the Society had approximately 950 members, while at the end of 2000, the number is realistically around 650. A sustained membership drive is essential to continue to hold membership costs in check.

2001 Subscription fees

Unfortunately, another rise in Federal subscription fees is unavoidable. The Federal Council, at the last meeting approved the new fee schedule for 2001: Ordinary Federal membership subscription \$65 per annum, student/retiree Federal membership subscription \$30 per annum. Note that GST will be added to these subscriptions.

ASSSI General Meeting

All members are cordially invited to a General Meeting of the Society

7.30pm - 8.30pm 4th December 2000
Stuart Room 1, Lincoln University,
Christchurch, New Zealand

This general meeting has been called to satisfy the requirements of the Society's Constitution to hold such a meeting at not more than two yearly intervals.

Agenda

Welcome

Apologies

Minutes of the last General Meeting

Business Ex-minutes

President's Report

Installation of President Elect and Committee for 2001-2002

General Business

Close

ASSSI Membership Report

The following member number are current as at 28th August 2000. The total ASSSI membership database (including CPSS) is 788, and of these 605 (or 77%) have paid their Year 2000 subscriptions. Out of the 179 CPSS members, 50 are dual CPAg/CPSS members paid for 2000. Twenty-seven of these paid via the AIAST.

As at 28th August there had been 48 new members admitted in 2000 (19 - Qld, 11 - WA, NSW - 6, Vic - 5, Riv - 5, SA - 2).

Alice Bass
Executive Officer.

FINANCIAL MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY AS AT 26th JUNE 2000

Branch	Members	% Paid	CPSS	%CPSS Paid
ACT	45 (+ 2 honorary)	82	15	74
NSW	109 (+ 3 honorary)	73	46	67
Qld	160 (+ 5 honorary)	81	58	69
Riv	44	73	3	100
SA	69 (+ 3 honorary)	80	20	50
Vic	95 (+ 3 honorary)	80	24	67
WA	82 (+ 3 honorary)	93	10	40
Int	11	100	3	33



Programme

Sunday 3rd December

12.00 noon – 6:00 pm
6:00

ASSSI Federal Council Meeting
Welcome reception and Powhiri

Monday 4th December

9:15 - 9:45am

Conference Opening and Welcome

9:45 – 10:25

NZSSS Presidential Address

11:00 – 11:40

ASSSI Presidential Address

11:40 – 12.20pm

Plenary Session

1:30 – 3:10

Concurrent Sessions

1A: Soil and pasture dynamics in dairy systems

1B: Greenhouse gas dynamics

1C: Solute transport

1D Acid sulphate soils – properties and management

3:40 – 5:20

Concurrent Sessions

2A: Nitrogen dynamics in dairy systems

2B: Soil landscape modelling for land-use planning

2C: Soil water properties and management

2D: Acid sulphate soils – properties and management

5:30 – 7:30

ASSSI General Meeting

NZSSS General Meeting

Tuesday 5th December

8:30 – 9:10am

Plenary Session

9:15 – 10:15

Concurrent Sessions

3A: Soil environmental management – pesticides

3B: Soil assessment for viticulture

3C: New techniques in analysis of soil properties

3D: Urban soils

10:45 – 11:45

Concurrent Sessions

4A: Soil environmental management – pesticides

4B: Saline and sodic soils

4C: Soil chemical properties and processes

4D: Pedological properties and processes

12:00 noon

Mid Conference Field Trip

Dinner at Vineyard

Wednesday 6th December

8:30 – 9:20	Norman Taylor Memorial Lecture
9:20 – 10:40	Young Scientists Plenary
11:10 – 1:50pm	Poster Sessions
2:00 – 3:20	Concurrent Sessions 5A: Saline and sodic soils 5B: <i>Workshop on 'Phosphorus losses from agricultural soils'</i> 5C: <i>Client oriented use of soil resource information</i> 5D: <i>Workshop</i>
3:50 – 5:30	Concurrent Sessions 6A: <i>Workshop on 'Quality soils for food production'</i> 6B: <i>Workshop on 'Phosphorus losses from agricultural soils'</i> 6C: <i>Soil resources – history and communication</i> 6D: <i>Soil structure and erosion</i>
6:00	Conference Dinner

Thursday 7th December

8:30 – 9:15am	Plenary Session
9:20 – 10:40	Concurrent Sessions 7A: <i>Managing nutrients to meet agricultural and environmental objectives – modelling of soil nitrogen</i> 7B: <i>Forest soil processes – carbon and nitrogen dynamics</i> 7C: <i>Soil microbial processes – nitrogen transformations</i> 7D: <i>Soil and land resource assessment</i>
11:10 – 1:30pm	Poster Sessions
1:40 – 3:20	Concurrent Sessions 8A: <i>Managing nutrients to meet agricultural and environmental objectives – soil nitrogen dynamics</i> 8B: <i>Forest soil properties and tree growth</i> 8C: <i>Soil biota</i> 8D: <i>Soil phosphorus chemistry</i>
3:50 – 5:30	Concurrent Sessions 9A: <i>Managing nutrients to meet agricultural and environmental objectives</i> 9B: <i>Protection and remediation of soils</i> 9C: <i>Soil quality indicators in managed agricultural soils</i> 9D: <i>Waste management and amelioration</i>

Friday 8th December

8:30 – 10:30am	Concurrent Sessions 10A: <i>Workshop on 'Pedotransfer functions'</i> 10B: <i>Soil erosion processes</i> 10C: <i>Soil quality indicators and evaluation</i> 10D: <i>Waste application effects on soil properties</i> 10E: <i>Workshop on 'Scientific Writing'</i>
11:00 – 12:00 noon	Conference Close and Awards Presentation

**For more information visit the Soil 2000 website at
www.lincoln.ac.nz/pdg/nzsss/**

AJSR Contents

Contents of the Australian Journal of Soil Research, Volume 38, No 5, 2000.

Volume 38, No 5

Root-zone hydraulic lift evaluated with the dual-probe heat-pulse technique.

Y. Song, M. B. Kirkham, J. M. Ham, G. J. Kluitenberg

Improved laboratory calibration of a single-probe surface gamma-neutron gauge.

F. A. M. Cassaro, T. T. Tominaga, O. O. S. Bacchi, K. Reichardt, J. C. M. Oliveira, L. C. Timm

Least limiting water range: a potential indicator of physical quality of forest soils.

C. Zou, R. Sands, G. Buchan, I. Hudson

Water quality of gully drainage from texture-contrast soils in the Adelaide hills in low rainfall years.

J. W. Cox, R. Ashley

Mobility of phosphorus through intact soil cores collected from the Adelaide hills, South Australia.

J. W. Cox, C. A. Kirkby, D. J. Chittleborough, L. J. Smythe, N. K. Fleming

Speciation and phytoavailability of cadmium in selected surface soils of South Australia.

G. S. R. Krishnamurti, R. Naidu

Physical and chemical protection of soil organic carbon in three agricultural soils with different contents of calcium carbonate.

A. Clough, J. O. Skjemstad

Forms of organic C and P extracted from tropical soils as assessed by liquid-state ¹³C- and ³¹P-NMR spectroscopy.

A. Moller, K. Kaiser, W. Amelung, C. Niamskul, S. Udomsri, M. Puthawong, L. Haumaier, W. Zech

 **AJSR is available on the web at**
www.publish.csiro.au/journal/ajsr/index.html

AJSR discount available with 2001 subscriptions

Due to efforts by both the ASSSI Federal Council and the AJSR Editorial Advisory Committee, ASSSI members will be able to benefit from substantial discounts on subscription to the Australian Journal of Soil Research in 2001.

ASSSI 2001 subscription renewal notices will include an option to take up an individual subscription to AJSR in 2001 at 40% discount on normal subscription prices. For just \$90, members will receive six print issues posted to them throughout the year.

If administrative infrastructure is suitable, members may be able to alternatively take out an electronic subscription, also at a considerably discounted price.

ASSSI renewal notices will be posted in December, so members should look for their options for AJSR subscription and make sure they tick the correct box to receive a discount on individual subscriptions.

Would you prefer to receive *Profile* electronically?

For those of you who are still trying to achieve the elusive 'paperless office', we would like to give you the option of forgoing your quarterly paper copy of *Profile* in favour of an electronic one.

How will it work?

Each time an issue of *Profile* is produced you will receive an email message with a web link direct to the electronic copy of the latest *Profile* on the ASSSI website. The file is in *.pdf format and so you will need to download Acrobat Reader from the link provided if you don't already have it. From here you can read the latest ASSSI news direct from your screen, or print it out to read at your leisure (recommended).

What do I have to do?

To make the change, please send an email with your name, postal address and email address to the *Profile* Editor at jrwhite@tpg.com.au.

For those of you who (like me) prefer to keep getting the paper copy - you don't have to do anything.

Tasmanian Workshop Highlights

Forestry Issues

Bill Cotching from the Department of Primary Industries in Tasmania reports on the results of a gathering of the states soil scientists.

Over 30 soil scientists in Tasmania (many of whom are members of the Australian Society of Soil Science) met for a workshop entitled 'Current activities in Tasmanian soil science' in July on the University of Tasmania's Launceston campus.

Attendees were from the University of Tasmania, CSIRO, Tasmanian Institute of Ag Research, North Forests, the Forest Practices Board, and Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment.

Bill Cotching, convenor of the workshop, said that the workshop achieved its aims of sharing information amongst those working in soil science in Tasmania.

Contributors were from private industry as well as government organisations. Nineteen papers were presented on topics as diverse as the causes of tree decline, soil nutrient deficiencies, modelling of landscapes and the environment using GIS, and the range of soil map information currently being produced. These papers illustrate that soil science is an active discipline in Tasmania generating results that are of great value to the State.

A highlight of the day's activities was a forum to consider the question of the sustainability of tree farming on prime agricultural land in Tasmania. Participants concluded that from a soil science point of view, the advantages tree farming has over tradi-

tional agricultural activities has not been considered in the public debate. The participants identified research information on the effects of tree farming and other agricultural practices on land and water quality from both Tasmania and internationally. The research

results provide good evidence of the minimal on and off-site impacts on soil and water quality of well managed tree farms and also there is no evidence that tree farms lessen the land's capability for future agricultural activities. The most contentious issues in the current debate on tree farming appear to be social or people oriented issues including rural depopulation, property values, aesthetics and local government

infrastructure with perceptions often dominating the debate rather than facts.

Workshop participants noted that tree farming in Tasmania is controlled by a Code of Forest Practices. Although pastoral and cropping farming have no equivalent code, guidelines are being formulated jointly by the Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association and the Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment with funding from the Natural Heritage Trust.

Workshop participants resolved to hold a similar event next year and to invite a wider audience to learn of the latest developments in Tasmanian soil science.



ABOVE: Soil scientists in Tasmania gathered to discuss the hot topics in soil science in their state.

Why not advertise soil science positions, scholarships, studentships or vocational work opportunities in Profile?

Do you have scientific equipment which is no longer needed and you would like to sell? Or are you looking for an elusive piece of equipment or a publication?

If there is a demand for communicating this type of information it could be included in a Profile 'Classifieds' section. Please contact the editor if you would like to place a notice.

Redevelopment of Post Industrial Landscapes

Victorian Branch members recently took a tour through the redevelopment site of the Docklands of Melbourne where both conventional and novel approaches have been taken to the decontamination of soil. Karen Smith reports.

On the 12th of September, 21 people attended an excursion run by the Victorian Branch of ASSSI to the Old Melbourne Gasworks. Situated opposite the new Colonial Stadium right in the centre of the Docklands precinct in Melbourne, this is the ultimate post industrial site. Mr Andrew Labbett, environmental engineer and site manager for the Enterra Group, contracted for the decontamination works, spoke to us on the history of the site and their strategies for decontamination. The grand tour followed this.

The site was originally a processing plant for the carbonization of coal into gas. As such the site housed such things as coal stores, tar wells and oil and gas tanks. Operating in a different era, within a markedly different occupational health and safety environment, there has of course been contamination of the site by past industrial processes.

The site is situated on the old Yarra River Delta, with a soil substrate of Coode Island silt, which has acid sulphate potential, and poor geotechnical properties for construction. Coode Island silt functions as a good physical barrier to contaminants moving into the ground water and off site, as it has a low permeability.

The main contaminants to be dealt with on site are poly aromatic hydrocarbons, mono aromatic hydrocarbons, cyanide and benzene, toluene, ethylene and xylene, and ammonium sulfate.

Evaluation for reclamation of the site began in 1978, but it is not until recently that reclamation was prioritised and that actual decontamination works began. The State Government owns the site, and the current budget for reclamation is around forty five million dollars. Other decontamination options were considered, such as bioremediation and processing on site via a high temperature furnace. Bioremediation was considered too slow for the time frame required, and the furnace option too difficult politically, as it

would generate lots of polluting smoke close to the CBD and residential areas.

The works have a twofold purpose, to decontaminate the site, and to stabilise the site in terms of its geotechnical properties so that medium density housing can be built on it in the future. A proportion of the site will also become public open space as part of the Docklands planning scheme, providing a much needed counterpoint to the industrial landscapes surrounding Colonial Stadium.

The site is highly regulated and managed from an occupational health and safety point of view, so we all had to wear the requisite orange vests, hard hats, boots, long trousers and long sleeve shirts. We made an even more interesting looking group than we

usually do on soils excursions, but at least all our funny hats were the same.

The strategy for reclamation is to decontaminate and reuse material on site as much as is possible. This minimises the degradation of other sites in the process. What cannot be reused is sent to special designated landfill. As the tar residues are easily visible in the soil, the soil is initially separated on the basis of visual properties and then put through a trunnel screen, which

separates out the material into three particle sizes, less than 25 mm, 25-100 mm, and greater than 100 mm. Since most contaminants tend to adhere to the smaller particles, the larger material may mostly be reused after crushing and recycling. The concrete and brick on site are dealt with in this way. The small particle size material is co-burned with quicklime (CaO), which generates an exothermic reaction to 100 degrees C. The most volatile contaminants burn off at this temperature, and others are fixed in the soil, which is then buried at specified depths in the new constructed profile, in accordance with the re-use criterion.



ABOVE: The Colonial Stadium is a major landmark in the Docklands precinct of Melbourne which is undergoing a major redevelopment, and facing the issues associated with post-industrial land use.

continued page x

Soils Theses

The following soil related theses have been passed recently. Please forward details of recent theses to the editor for publication.

Ms Tina Dalby

Master Science, University of Newcastle

Where does the 'P' in super go?

Supervisors: Phillip Geary (School of Geosciences) and Ken Reynolds (Dept Land and Water Conservation)

Dr Masoud Edraki

PhD, University of Queensland 1999

Soil hydrology and water balance under trees and pasture irrigated with secondary treated sewage effluent.

Supervisors: Peter Dart, Bing So, Neal Menzies

Dr Graeme Schwenke

PhD, University of Queensland 1999

Soil organic matter dynamics in the post-mining landscape at Weipa, north Queensland.

Supervisors: Clive Bell, Stan Waring, David Mulligan

Dr Patricia Madsen

PhD, University of Queensland 1999

Chemical and microbial factors affecting the establishment of native species on coal mine spoil from central Queensland.

Supervisors: David Mulligan, Clive Bell

Dr Anna Rahmianna

PhD, University of Queensland 1999

Germination and establishment of legumes after rice under rainfed rice systems.

Supervisors: Bing So, Gunnar Kerchof, Sumarno

Dr Bernhard Wehr

PhD, University of Queensland 1999

Reactions of cations with pectin and root cell walls.

Supervisors: Pax Blamey, Neal Menzies

Dr Carl Smith

PhD, University of Queensland 1999

Assessing agricultural land management sustainability: Development and application of a method to a sugar-producing area in north Queensland.

Supervisors: Geoff McDonald, Robin Thwaites, Jenny Bellamy

Mr Ian Dart

Master Agricultural Science, University of Queensland 1999

The effect of soil physical factors on the establishment of sunflowers, soybeans and sorghum.

Supervisors: Bing So, Brian Schafer

Dr Andrew Grigg

PhD, University of Queensland 2000

Nutrient cycling in rehabilitated ecosystems after open-cut coal mining in central Queensland.

Supervisors: David Mulligan, Clive Bell

Mr Justin Adams

Master Land Resource Science, University of Queensland 2000

Predictive methods to determine acid sulfate soil distributions in south-east Queensland.

Supervisors: Robin Thwaites, Doug Smith

Dr Arief Indrasumunar

Master Agricultural Science, University of Queensland 2000

*Symbiotic nitrogen fixation by soybean (*Glycine max* (L.) Merr.) in acid soils.*

Supervisors: Peter Dart, Neal Menzies, Bernie Carroll

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has set specific re-use criteria for material decontaminated on this site, and these criteria must be met or the material must go to landfill. This process is strictly audited by an EPA approved auditor, who visits the site at least twice a week and inspects the lab results of tested materials and approves re-use of materials.

The size of the site is 7.5 ha, and it is quite a complex operation with a large number of earth moving machines, a concrete crusher, screener and liming mill operating at various times. The site is

extremely fragrant, in a coal tar sort of way, and steam pots with perfume are blown across the site to ameliorate bad smells for the workers. A fine misting irrigation system operates on the boundaries down wind, to collect some of the dust generated on the site. Not a terribly pleasant place to work. However, we were all fairly impressed by the site operations and strategies for decontamination, and by the capabilities of Mr Andrew Labbett. Some of us were also very pleased that we do not have to actually do this kind of work ourselves. Thanks go to Robert Edis for organizing a great field trip.

Wide Brown Land

Northern Territorian member Ian Hollingsworth (EWL Sciences) has suggested we feature a soil profile in each issue to indicate the range of soils members deal with in different parts of the country. Ian has started the ball rolling by describing a soil he is familiar with in the Top End. Future contributions will be most welcome.

EWL Sciences conducts soil investigations for baseline environmental surveys, site remediation, environmental management plans, forestry site quality and sediment & erosion control planning. Our clients include mining and forestry companies, public works departments and the Department of Defence.

This is a profile description of a Chromosol from baseline survey work we did of the Bradshaw Training Areas (10,000 sq km) for the Department of Defence. These soils were interspersed with Vertosols on the alluvial plain of the Angallari River. The subsoil below 0.7 m is dense, hard and sodic. These soils are prone to bulldust when trafficked heavily – creating deep potholes and poor visibility. Training area management takes these properties into account by rotating training areas and remediating tracks.



Site Information

Desc. I. Hollingsworth
Locality: Bradshaw station, NT. Angalarri plain
Date 16/10/96
Elevation 13 metres
Map Ref.: Sheet No. : 4967-2 1:50000
Rainfall: 500
Northing/Long 8295516 AMG zone: 52
Runoff: No runoff
Easting/Lat. 659579 AMG zone: 52
Drainage Imperfect

Geology

ExposureType: Soil pit
Geol. Ref.: Czs
Substrate Material: Pit, 4.5 m deep, clay

Land Form

Rel/Slope Level plain <9m <1%
Morph. Flat
Elem. Type: Plain
Slope: 0 %
Pattern Type: Plain
Relief: 0 metres
Slope Level
Aspect: No Data

Surface Soil Condition (dry): Hardsetting, Sandy veneer

Erosion: None

Soil Classification

Australian Soil Classification:

Haplic Mesotrophic Brown Chromosol Thin Slightly
gravelly Sandy Clayey Shallow

Vegetation:

Low Strata - Tussock grass, 0.51-1m, Closed or dense. *Species includes - Sorghum timorense, Themeda triandra

Mid Strata - Shrub, 0.51-1m, Sparse. *Species includes - Carissa lanceolata, Grevillea striata

Tall Strata - Tree, 1.01-3m, Mid-dense. *Species includes – Eucalyptus pruinosa

Surface Coarse Fragments: 0-2%, medium gravelly, 6-20mm, rounded, ferruginous nodules

Profile Morphology

A11	0 - 0.03 m	Dark brown (10YR3/3-Moist); Loamy sand; Massive grade of structure; Earthy fabric; Few (<1 per 100mm ²) Fine (1-2mm) macropores, Dry; Non-plastic; Non-sticky; 0-2%, medium gravelly, 6-20mm, rounded, Red-brown hardpan, coarse fragments; Few (2 - 10 %), Ferromanganiferous, Nodules, Medium (2 -6 mm) segregations; Soil matrix is Non-calcareous; Field pH 6.5 (Raupach); Few very fine (0-1mm) roots; Abrupt, Smooth change to -
A12	0.03 - 0.4 m	Brown (10YR4/3-Moist); Loamy sand; Massive grade of structure; Smooth-ped fabric; Few (<1 per 100mm ²) Fine (1-2mm) macropores, Dry; Non-plastic; Non-sticky; Few (2 - 10 %), Ferromanganiferous, Nodules, Medium (2 -6 mm) segregations; Soil matrix is Non-calcareous; Field pH 6.5 (Raupach); Few very fine (0-1mm) roots; Clear, Smooth change to -
A2e	0.4 - 0.5 m	Yellowish brown (10YR5/6-Moist); Very pale brown (10YR7/4-Moist); 20-50%, 5-15 mm, Distinct, 10YR7/2; Sandy clay loam Silty; Moderate grade of structure, 20-50 mm, Prismatic; Rough-ped fabric; Few (<1 per 100mm ²) Fine (1-2mm) macropores, Dry; Very plastic; Normal plasticity; Slightly sticky; Few cutans, <10% of ped faces or walls coated, faint; Common (10 - 20 %), Ferromanganiferous, Nodules, Medium (2 -6 mm) segregations; Soil matrix is Non-calcareous; Field pH 6.5 (Raupach); Few very fine (0-1mm) roots; Abrupt, Smooth
B2	0.5 - 0.7 m	Yellowish brown (10YR5/6-Moist); 2-10%, 5-15 mm, Sandy clay; Moderate grade of structure, 5-10 mm, Angular blocky; Smooth-ped fabric; Few (<1 per 100mm ²) Fine (1-2mm) macropores, Dry; Non-plastic; Non-sticky; Common (10 - 20 %), Ferromanganiferous, Nodules, Medium (2 -6 mm) segregations; Soil matrix is Non-calcareous; Field pH 7 (Raupach); Few very fine (0-1mm) roots; Clear, Smooth change to -
B2q	0.7 - 1.2 m	Brownish yellow (10YR6/6-Moist); Sandy clay; Moderate grade of structure, 5-10 mm, Angular blocky; Smooth-ped fabric; Moderately moist; Non-plastic; Normal plasticity; Non-sticky; Common (10 - 20 %), Ferromanganiferous, Nodules, Medium (2 -6 mm) segregations; Densipan, Weakly cemented, Continuous, Massive; Soil matrix is Non-calcareous; Field pH 9

Workshop at Soil 2000

Invitation to

Workshop on soils and food production to be held at the

Joint Australian and New Zealand Soil Science Societies Conference Christchurch, December 2000

Are you interested in information related to soils and sustainable food production?

The implications of population growth?

Implications of land degradation - erosion, salinisation...?

Implications of water resource use/depletion?

Issues related to urban expansion onto our most productive soils?

Is there a problem or can science provide all the answers?

Some time has been set aside in the Christchurch conference to discuss issues related to sustaining global food supplies. You are welcome to come along and share your experience, opinions and ideas. If you would like to provide a short (10-15 minute) presentation as part of this workshop please contact either Megan Balks (mbalks@waikato.ac.nz) or Peter Singleton (singletonp@agresearch.cri.nz). We would like to gain a consensus on the current opinions of Soil Scientists related to these issues which we plan to publish in New Zealand Soil News and Profile.



Federal Council minutes

The 195th ASSSI Federal Council Meeting was held on the 31st August 2000 at the University of Southern Queensland, Toowoomba

1. Opening

The President opened the meeting at 10.24 am by welcoming all present including K Watling as a proxy for Qld Branch and A Bass (Exec. Officer) attending in person.

2. Attendance

Present: G Price, L Abbott (on telephone items 10.1-10.5), S Raine, D Lester, J White, K Watling (Qld), D Edwards (SA), and J Standley (Riverina proxy), A Bass (Exec Officer). Apologies: L Sullivan (NSW), C Ahern (ACT proxy), J Thompson (WA proxy), N Menzies (Vic proxy). J Standley was appointed Minute Secretary for items 10.4-11 in the absence of S Raine.

3. Minutes of the 194th Meeting

J Standley moved that the minutes of the previous meeting be accepted as a true and correct record, seconded J White. Motion carried.

4. Business arising from the minutes

4.1 Re 11.6: Deposit on the venue for the 2010 World Congress has been paid. Still waiting for all Branches to nominate a representative to the 2010 World Congress Steering Committee. NZSSS representative on the Steering Committee is R McLaren. The Council also expressed their best wishes to B Gilkes (Chair, Steering Committee) who has been ill recently. The Aust. Soc. Hort Sci. is still to decide on whether to nominate to host the International Society of Horticultural Science World Congress immediately before or after the soils congress.

4.2 Re 5.4: Prof Blum (IUSS) has confirmed his attendance at the Soils 2000 conference.

5. President's report

G Price spoke to a report tabled outlining his main activities over the last few months. Main issues were:

5.1 G Price noted that the president of the ASSSI

Federal Council is a member of the Board of Trustees for the Plant Nutrition Awards and that he had been recently acting on behalf of the Society in this capacity.

5.2 G Price attended the last meeting of the National Conference Organising Committee in NZ and requested reimbursement only of costs totalling \$206, seconded K Watling. Motion carried.

5.3 G Price noted that the Executive Officer's contract is due to expire at the end of the year and negotiations had started on behalf of the Federal Council with a view to extend the existing arrangements. Further discussion was held over until item 10.6.

6. Executive Officer's report

6.1 A Bass tabled a report showing current membership of 788 of which 605 (77%) are financial. J White moved that a list of all unfinancial members be published in the next issue of Profile as a reminder to those members to pay, seconded K Watling. Motion carried.

6.2 Certificates for presentation to the Society's Honorary Members for Life have been prepared and will be sent out in the near future.

6.3 Applications for membership were received from 20 people during the last period. S Raine moved that they be admitted to the Society, seconded J Standley. Motion carried.

6.4 A Bass initiated discussion in relation to the layout of subscription notices and impact of the GST processes on the ability of the Society to continue to offer discounts for early payment. D Edwards moved that the Society set a membership fee payable by the 31st March in each year and adopt a principle of changing an administration fee for membership payments made after that date, seconded J White. Motion carried.

7. Treasurer's report

7.1 D Lester reported on the income and expenditure for the previous period. The Society currently has cash assets of approximately \$85000 and it is expected that by the end of the year this figure will have decreased to under \$80000. D Lester moved that the report be received and the accounts for payment be approved, seconded D Edwards. Motion carried.

7.2 D Lester noted that the 1999 Annual Report has been lodged with the Registrar-General's Office of the ACT Dept of Justice and Community Safety as per the Society's incorporation requirements.

7.3 D Lester advised that \$3000 was received from the Riverina Branch for the 2010 World Congress

8. Secretary's Report

8.1 S Raine tabled a complete listing of the inwards and outwards correspondence for the previous period and moved that the inwards be received and the outwards endorsed, seconded J Standley. Motion carried.

8.2 S Raine noted that the Prescott Medal Committee had recommended that Dr Maurice Mulcahy be awarded the Prescott Medal for the year 2000. S Raine moved acceptance of the recommendation, seconded D Edwards. Motion carried.

9. Editor's Report

9.1 J White advised that she has started the handover process to the Newsletter Editor elect.

9.2 J White raised an issue in relation to the potential for studentships and scholarships to be advertised in Profile. The Council suggested that J White include a comment on this matter in the next issue of Profile.

10. General Business

10.1 S Raine tabled a report from the Accreditation Subcommittee on the operation and future of an accreditation scheme for soil scientists. L Abbott moved that the subcommittee be congratulated on the quality and detail of the report, seconded D Lester. Motion carried. A discussion of the report recommendations ensued and D Edwards reported comments made by the President of the AIAST at a recent meeting in Gatton over the current and future operation of the existing CPSS scheme. S Raine moved that the Council accept the report and seek the input on the direction of the operation of the accreditation program from CPSS accredited members through a direct mailout and the broader membership via an article in the next issue of Profile, seconded D Edwards. Motion carried.

10.2 L Abbott reported that the Student Development Subcommittee has recently started discussing some of the issues affecting students. The subcommittee currently consists of L Abbott (Chair & WA), L Sullivan (NSW), C Grant (SA), J Hudson (SA), T Weatherly (Vic) J Field (ACT) and K Hey (Qld).

10.3 S Raine moved that the recommendations proposed by the SA Branch in relation to By-Law 29 be approved, seconded D Edwards. Motion carried.

10.4 There was considerable discussion about the need to balance the cost of enabling the Executive Officer to execute all responsibilities expected of her against realistic membership fees (for which an increase would be required). D Lester moved that Executive Officer's contract rate be adjusted to

\$28.50 per hour (representing the CPI increase for 1998-2000) for 832 hours per year (16 hours x 52 weeks), seconded D Edwards. Motion carried. D Lester moved that Council empowers the Executive Officer to engage a casual person at a rate of \$15.00 per hour up to a maximum of 200 hours per year, seconded J White. Motion carried. J White moved that the Executive Committee and the Society's legal adviser be empowered to finalise the executive officer contract negotiations on the behalf of Council, seconded D Edwards. Motion carried.

10.5 D Lester introduced the draft Federal Council budget for the 2001 calendar year. With CPI increases the Society operating expenses will be ~\$46000. L Abbott noted the importance of increasing the membership base and other income to maintain a balanced budget. D Lester moved that the Federal Council fees for 2001 be set at \$65 for ordinary members, \$30 for students and \$30 for retirees plus GST. The late administration fee (for payment after 31st March 2001) would be \$15 plus GST for all members. Seconded L Abbott. Motion carried.

10.6 G Price introduced a response from CSIRO Publishing to an earlier request for member discounts. The option of either a compulsory AJSR subscription for all members or optional subscriptions, both at a discount rate, as well as the possibility of electronic copy, were discussed. J White moved that we thank the staff of the AJSR for special consideration and that we accept the optional discount rate of \$90.00 for a hard copy and possibly \$75.00 for an electronic copy subject to satisfactory administrative arrangements being finalised by L Sullivan, D Lester, A Bass and S Raine before November 1st in time for the details to appear on the 2001 subscription notice, seconded D Lester. Motion carried.

10.7 D Lester reported that the Society had made the payment for the new Society website address/hosting/location. J White to contact Derek Yates about implementation to ensure that the site is up and running as soon as possible.

10.8 G Price advised the Council that ASSSI members Isabelle Bertrand of CSIRO Land and Water and Steven Raine (University of Southern Queensland) have been chosen to present during the Young Scientists Plenary Session at the National Conference in December. He noted that judges are also required for oral and poster sessions. As at the 10th August, 34 Conference registrations had been received.

10.9 L Abbott advised that the proposed dates for the Conference in 2002 would be 1st to 6th December in

continued page 30



Conferences

28-29 Nov 2000

Applied Contamination Chemistry, University of WA, Perth
tel (08) 93803827
sandramaynard@uwa.edu.au

3-8 Dec 2000

NZSSS/ASSSI National Soils Conference 2000. New Horizons for a New Century, Lincoln University, New Zealand
Shrewsbh@lincoln.ac.nz
tel 64 3325 2811
fax 64 3325 3840
www.lincoln.ac.nz/cted/NZSSS

5-8 Feb 2001

4th Australian Sorghum Conference, Brisbane
yrdpco@ozemail.com.au
tel 07 3878 9242
fax 07 3878 9530

4-6 March 2001

The International Fertiliser Society Symposium: Fertilisers and Resource Management for Food Security, Quality and the Environment, Haifa, Israel
secretary@fertiliser-society.org
fax +44 1904492700

12-16 March 2001

5th International Symposium on Plant-soil Interactions at low pH, Swazulu-Natal, South Africa
fax +27 12 323 1157
www.biology.ualberta.ca/psilph/psilph.htm

20-23 March 2001

Productive Use and Rehabilitation of Saline Lands
www.cdesign.com.au/pursl
tel 03 6331 6377

7-11 May 2001

4th International Conference on Environmental Geochemistry in the Tropics, Townsville, Queensland
andrew.noble@tvl.clw.csiro.au
tel 07 4753 8550
fax 07 4753 8600

8-13 July 2001

Third International Conference on Mycorrhizas, Adelaide
tel (08) 8303 7351
fax (08) 8383 6511
sally.smith@adelaide.edu.au

21-27 July 2001

7th International Symposium on Soil and Plant Analysis, Alberta, Canada
fax +49 6307 401104
www.ISSPA2001.com

27 Jul - Aug 2001

XIV International Plant Nutrition Colloquium, Hannover, Germany
fax +49 511 762 3611
www.ipnc2001.uni-hannover.de

27 Jul-2 Aug 2001

6th International Conference on the Biogeochemistry of Trace Elements, University of Guelph, Ontario, Canada
tel (519) 824 4120
fax (519) 823 1587
icobe@lrs.uoguelph.ca
http://icobte.crl.e.uoguelph.ca

3-9 Aug 2001

12th World Fertilizer Congress on Fertilization in the Third Millennium, Beijing, China
http://www.pb.fal.de

28-30 Nov 2001

Australian Geomechanics Society Conference: Geoenvironment 2001
tel 02 92903366
fax 02 92902444
www.icms.com.au/geoenvironment

14-20 Aug 2002

17th World Congress of Soil Science, Bangkok Soil Science: confronting New Realities in the 21st Century
tel (662) 940 5787
fax (662) 940 5788
www.17wcsc.ku.ac.th

July 2003

International Soil Tillage Research Organisation, Queensland
tel (07) 5460 1354
fax (07) 5460 1367
jtullberg@mailbox.uq.edu.au

Any conferences, courses, seminars or workshops coming up? Send *Profile* the details and we'll feature them here.

Federal Council Minutes

from page 29

WA, publicity to be prepared for the New Zealand Conference in December. This proposal received the full support of Federal Council.

11. Closure

The President declared the meeting closed at 5.10 pm. The final meeting of the present Council will be held at Lincoln College starting at midday on Sunday, 3rd December. The AGM will be held at 5.30 p.m. on 4th December for which reports will be required from all Committees, G Price to advise venue.

Soils Contacts

FEDERAL COUNCIL

President

Graham Price
Incitec Ltd, PO Box 140
Morningside QLD 4170
tel 07 3867 9430
fax 07 3867 9433
Graham.Price@incitec.com.au

Vice-president

Lyn Abbott
UWA, Nedlands, WA 6009
tel 08 9380 2499
fax 08 9380 1050
labbott@cyllene.uwa.edu.au

Secretary

Steve Raine
University of Stn
Queensland, Toowoomba
QLD 4350
tel 07 4631 1691
fax 07 4631 2526
raine@foes.usq.edu.au

Treasurer

David Lester
Incitec Ltd, PO Box 623
Toowoomba QLD 4350
tel 07 4639 7403
fax 07 4639 7410
David.Lester@incitec.com.au

Executive officer

Alice Bass
PO Box 396, Daw Park 5041
tel 08 8351 5084
fax 08 8351 5184
abass@camtech.net.au

Profile editor

Jonnie White
PO Box 936
Biloela QLD 4715
tel 07 4992 6041
fax 07 4992 6043
jrwhite@tpg.com.au

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

President

Ian Fillery
CSIRO Division of Plant
Industries, Private Bag PO,
Wembley 6014
tel 08 9333 6681
fax 08 9387 8991
i.fillery@ccmar.csiro.au

Secretary

Mike Wong
CSIRO Land & Water,
Private Bag PO, Wembley
6014
tel 08 9333 6299
fax 08 9387 8991
m.wong@ccmar.csiro.au

Treasurer

Keith Lindbeck
PO Box 144, Bull Creek
6149
tel 08 9332 0671
fax 08 9332 0672
lindbkya@ca.com.au

Newsletter editor

David Allen
Chemistry Centre, 125 Hay
Street, East Perth 6004
tel 08 9222 3031
fax 08 9325 7767
allen1@inet.net.au

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

President

Rob Fitzpatrick
CSIRO Land and Water
PMB 2 Glen Osmond 5064
tel 08 8303 8511
fax 08 8303 8550
Rob.Fitzpatrick@
adl.clw.csiro.au

Secretary

Paul Dalby
Primary Industries and
Resources SA
GPO Box 1671
Adelaide SA 5001
tel 08 8303 9332
fax 08 8303 9555
dalby.paul@pi.sa.gov.au

Treasurer

Bernie Zarcinas
CSIRO Land and Water
PMB 2 Glen Osmond 5064
tel 08 8303 8429
fax 08 8303 8565
Bernard.Zarcinas@
adl.clw.csiro.au

ACT

President

John Field
Department of Forestry,
Australian National
University
Canberra ACT 0200
tel 02 6249 3566
fax 02 6249 0746
john.field@anu.edu.au

VICTORIA

President

Tony Weatherley
Institute of Land and
Food Resources
The University of
Melbourne, Parkville 3010
tel 03 8344 4642
fax 03 8344 5570
t.weatherley@landfood.
unimelb.edu.au

Secretary

Helen Suter
van der Graaff and
Associates Pty Ltd
80 Brucedale Crescent,
Park Orchards 3114
tel 03 9879 9480
fax 03 9876 1064
hsuter@mira.net

Treasurer

Andrew Smith
Institute of Land and
Food Resources
University of Melbourne,
Parkville 3010
tel 03 8344 0140
fax 03 8344 5570
a.smith@landfood.
unimelb.edu.au

NEW SOUTH WALES

President

Leigh Sullivan
Southern Cross University
PO Box 157, Lismore 2480
tel 02 6620 3742
fax 02 6621 2669
lsulliva@scu.edu.au

Secretary

Brendan George
State Forests, PO Box 100,
Beecroft 2119
tel 02 9872 0136
fax 02 9871 6941
brendang@sf.nsw.gov.au

Treasurer

Chris Conoley
Dept of Agricultural
Chemistry & Soil Science,
University of Sydney 2006
tel 02 9351 2089
fax 02 9351 3706
c.conoley@
agec.usyd.edu.au

RIVERINA

President

Evan Christen
CSIRO Land and Water
PMB 3 Griffith NSW 2680
tel 02 6960 1586
fax 02 69601600
evan.christen@
grf.clw.csiro.au

Secretary

John Hornbuckle
CSIRO Land and Water
PMB 3 Griffith NSW 2680
tel 02 6960 1586
fax 02 69601600
john.hornbuckle@
grf.clw.csiro.au

Treasurer

David Robinson
CSIRO Land and Water
PMB 3 Griffith NSW 2680
tel 02 6960 1586
fax 02 69601600
david.robinson@
grf.clw.csiro.au

QUEENSLAND

President

Kylie Hey
DNR, 80 Meiers Rd
Indooroopilly 4068
tel 07 3896 9819
fax 07 3896 9782
heyk@dnr.qld.gov.au

Secretary

Gillian Kopittke
CMLR Uni of Qld
St Lucia Q 4072
tel 07 3365 8552
fax 07 3365 3452
g.kopittke@cmlr.uq.edu.au

Treasurer

Angus McElnea
DNR, 80 Meiers Rd
Indooroopilly 4068
tel 07 3896 9553
fax 07 3896 9623
Mcelnea@dnr.qld.gov.au

TASMANIA

Philip Smethurst
CSIRO Forestry & Forest
Products, GPO Box 252-12,
Hobart 7001
tel 03 6226 7953
fax 03 6226 7942
Philip.Smethurst@
ffp.csiro.au

NEW ZEALAND

President

Ron McLaren
Dept of Soil Science
Lincoln University
PO Box 84
Canterbury NZ

Editor

Alastair Campbell
Dept of Soil Science
Lincoln University
PO Box 84
Canterbury NZ

**Please notify
Alice Bass and
your branch
secretary of
any change of
office or
address**

You get the  **... with**

Ask us how we can help YOU get the  in
contaminant soil science issues.

look here 

Environmental & Earth Sciences Pty Ltd on all soil, groundwater and waste management issues.

now here 

Environmental & Earth Sciences is committed to the professional development of the soil science industry in every way, including through employee training and development, sponsorship of training programs, innovating new techniques and research and development.

over here 

important 

go here 

**You could also win FREE boots,
see how at our internet site at:
<http://www.groundscience.com>**

owned 



find us here 

notice this 



Environmental & Earth Sciences Pty Ltd

**HEAD OFFICE "The Coal Loader", Balls Head Drive, Waverton NSW 2060, Australia
Phone: 61 2 9922 1777 Fax: 61 2 9922 1010 e-mail: eesi@zeta.org.au**

Also in Melbourne, Perth, Darwin, Orange, Byron Bay Auckland, New Zealand and Dili, East Timor

