



Conference Strengthens Trans-Tasman Ties

The joint NZSSS/ASSSI Soil 2000 Conference was held at Lincoln University near Christchurch from 3-8 December. This was the second joint conference which is held every four years with the intention of encouraging interaction and collaboration between New Zealand and Australian soil scientists. For the 340 delegates, the week-long event provided plenty of opportunities for interaction on an academic, social and cultural level as testified by the photograph below showing Australian and New Zealand delegates practicing the Maori wardance, the Haka. *Full conference report on page 5.*



ABOVE: Australian and New Zealand delegates to the joint NZSSS/ASSSI Soil 2000 Conference strengthen cross-cultural ties by performing the Haka.

In this issue

- **Conference Report**
- **New Federal Council**
- **New Home for ASSSI Website**
- **Annual Report**
- **Review of ASC Interactive Key**

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

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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.

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All contributions are welcome, text preferably by email. Please send to the editor, Dan Murphy, Soil Science UWA, Nedlands WA 6907, tel 08 9380 7083, fax 08 9380 1050, email dmurphy@agric.uwa.edu.au



From the president

I hope all members had a safe and blessed Christmas and that the holiday period was a time of rest, reflection and rejuvenation. In addition, may we all take with us into the new year a little of the Christmas message of love and goodwill to our fellow members, workmates, families and others in our communities who are less fortunate than us. Most of all may we be bolder in selling the message of the need to maintain Australia's soil resource for future generations.

NZSSS/ASSSI Joint National Conference

I was delighted to see so many members and some non-member soil scientists make the trip across the Tasman Sea to Christchurch. About 156 people attended from Australia, at last count. I trust the visit was worthwhile and that you all gained from the experience, professionally and socially. What were the main "take home" messages for us?

The number one message must be the call by both Professor Blum, Secretary-General of IUSS and Dr Pam Hazelton to make soil science a higher profile profession. There clearly needs to be greater interdisciplinary links with many other disciplines, and the contribution which we can make to many areas of life on this planet are not well enough known, appreciated or demanded by the nation's political, business and social leaders. So, could we not call our profession, "soil science - the high profile profession"? I am sure the next Council has this issue firmly on its agenda.

Number two may be that the issues are changing. As occurred at the 1998 Conference of ASSSI, the number of papers on environmental and contamination issues indicates that our awareness of these "survival" type issues continues to occupy our minds. More concern was expressed about the quality of groundwater, the processes which lead to or affect leaching and the management of the topsoil to prevent contamination of groundwater were popular topics of discussion. The use of models to explain these and other processes was also aired.

Number three message is that networking is still a key ingredient, and one of the best opportunities for

soil scientists to connect with each other. It is often said that we gain as much or more from the interaction out of session, than we do from the speakers. I felt that this conference was no exception. Many small discussion groups were seen in earnest conversation at tea breaks and outside of the meeting rooms and of course during the poster sessions.

Next Council

Your next Federal Council is in the very capable hands of Dr Lyn Abbott and her team from WA. Although it will challenge your diplomatic skills and your ingenuity, I express my very best wishes to Lyn and the rest of her Council for a successful term of office. I would ask all members to support the next Council in its endeavours to maintain the momentum towards development of a useful professional certification scheme, and the continued planning for the next conference in 2002 in Perth.

Final words

It has been a privilege to preside over Federal Council for the last two years. This role has been a challenging one, and I hope this Council has provided the leadership required by the members. To all those who responded to our calls to be more communicative and pro-active - thank you. To all members of Council, and the proxies who represented the Branches - thank you for your support throughout the last 2 years. Special mention should be made of Steve Raine, our enthusiastic and supportive Secretary, David Lester, for his thorough and particular attention to detail in keeping Council abreast of the financial position, and Jonnie White for her resolve to keep members informed of Council and Branch activities, through Profile. I am especially grateful to Alice Bass for improving the membership records, financial and other business records of the Society and for her dedication to the conversion of all the records for the GST.

Graham Price

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:

Keith Lindbeck

PO Box 144, Bull Creek WA 6149

tel: 08 9332 0671 fax: 08 9332 0672

lindbkya@ca.com.au

Please notify Keith at least one week before the event.



From the editor's desk

It is with some sadness (and some elation) that I close the pages on this, my last edition as editor of *Profile*. I hope that members have enjoyed reading the last eight editions as much as I have enjoyed compiling them. While I have received much positive feedback from members over the past two years, I must acknowledge that I have simply tried to maintain the excellent standard set by the previous *Profile* editor Rebecca Lines-Kelly.

Editing *Profile* is a time-consuming and at times, frustrating task but I would not have given up the wonderful opportunity it provides to interact with many outstanding soil scientists and terrific people from all over this country. To those people who diligently provide news and articles from their branches, I give my sincere thanks - you have made my job so much easier.

While the ASSSI, as a professional society, is very rightly focussed on science, a society is also about people. I have tried to use the pages of *Profile* to uncover the faces of this society, and to make members, both new and old, feel very much a part of the fray.

But *Profile* also has the potential to be used as tool for communicating our science. I am constantly amazed by the impact this little publication has, both within and outside of the ASSSI. I encourage members to acknowledge its power as a communication tool and to use this to their advantage. As the society continues to increase its influence in raising the profile of soil science in this country, the purpose and the content of *Profile* is likely to change.

This presents some very big challenges for the new *Profile* editor, Daniel Murphy. I am looking forward to seeing some fresh ideas and new approaches to the ASSSI's most important form of communication, when the Western Australian Federal Council takes the reins in 2001. I am sure that Daniel will get the same support from members that I have been privileged to receive.

Finally, why should we keep the benefits of ASSSI membership all to ourselves? An increasing membership is the sign of a healthy society and in the past two years we have welcomed 129 new members to the ASSSI. Extra copies of *Profile* are always available to show potential new members what the ASSSI is all about.

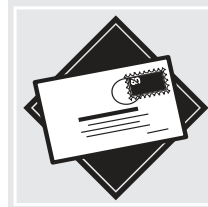
Jonnie White

Constitution and Members List

The ASSSI Constitution and By-laws require that every two years, at the rotation of the Federal Council, a copy of the constitution and a list of members should be distributed to each member. A copy of the ASSSI constitution, a member list (as of 15th December 2000) and a new membership application form is included with this issue of *Profile*. Please keep this for your records and discard previous copies of the constitution.

New members will be provided with a copy of this document by Executive Officer, Alice Bass, once their applications have been processed.

A copy of the constitution is also available from the ASSSI website at www.asssi.asn.au.



Letters

Soil Profiles Idea

Regarding the soil profile description provided by Ian Hollingsworth for the last issue of *Profile*. I think this is a great idea ! I will put these profile descriptions on the ASSSI web page (with acknowledgments and author's permission). This will provide a database of information (not necessarily gospel or otherwise) showing what soil scientists can do. We NEED more information to advertise our science (see Cliff Hignett's letter *Profile* 124), and I think this is a good start. I hope more contributions will be forthcoming, there must be thousands of profile descriptions sitting in people's drawers and labs doing nothing, why not share the knowledge?

Derek Yates, ASSSI webmaster,

Principal Scientist,

National Centre for Groundwater Mgt, UTS

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

Soil 2000: New Horizons for a New Century

Of the 340 delegates to the Soil 2000 Conference, just over 150 came from Australia, with a similar number of New Zealanders attending. The remainder of delegates were international visitors from China, Thailand, France, India, the United States, the United Kingdom, Austria, South Africa, Indonesia and the Philippines, making this the largest soils conference ever held in New Zealand.

Of special note was the attendance of Professor Winfried Blum, Secretary-General of the International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS) from Vienna. Professor Blum attended the entire week of the conference, presenting a plenary paper on the first morning and speaking at the General Meetings of both societies. His visit to New Zealand came after a quick tour of Australia in late November.

Over 200 papers were presented at the conference (5 plenary, 115 poster papers and 173 oral papers), covering a wide variety of topics including the historical significance of soils and soil science, waste disposal onto soils, solute transport through soils, soil fertility and fertilizers, saline and sodic soils, forest soils, acid sulfate soils and transfer of soils information to users. There was a good balance between papers dealing with fundamental soil science, primary production and environmental issues as highlighted by Professor Ron McLaren, outgoing president of the NZSSS, in his plenary presentation.

Five workshops were held during the conference. The workshop on "Soil Carbon and Greenhouse Gases" was particularly topical given the previous week's international meetings on greenhouse protocols at The Hague. As a result of the "Soil Science in Riparian and Wetland Management" workshop a network of interested scientists has been established. The workshop on "Scientific Writing" run by the Editor of the Australian Journal of Soil Research was particularly well-attended by post-graduate students. A workshop on "Quality Soils for Food Production" dealt with the serious issue of urban encroachment onto high value soils, a topic also addressed by Professor Blum in his plenary address. As a result of this workshop the following motion was developed and passed unanimously by conference delegates - "That the joint NZSSS/ASSSI Soil 2000 Conference endorses the initiative of NGO's together with the IUSS to create an international convention for soil and land protection by extending the existing U.N. Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)".

There was a special plenary session in which four young soil scientists (<35 years of age) were selected to present papers to the entire conference delegation. The chosen scientists were Isabelle

Bertrand from CSIRO Land and Water, Steve Raine from the University of Southern Queensland, Louise Barton from Landcare Research and Colin Gray from Lincoln University.

Prizes were also awarded by both societies for excellence in poster and oral presentations from young scientists. The judges found these prizes particularly difficult to award due to the high standards set by all presenters. The ASSSI made a poster presentation award to Andrew Dowley from CSIRO Land and Water in Adelaide for his poster entitled "Redox potential (Eh) and root damage in periodically waterlogged viticultural soils". His co-authors were R.W. Fitzpatrick and A. Cass. As Andrew was absent (busily writing his thesis we're told!), Rob Fitzpatrick accepted this award on his behalf.

The ASSSI oral paper presentation award saw a tie between Lucy Burkitt and Yong Li. Lucy works for the Dept of Natural Resources and Environment (Victoria) at Ellinbank and her paper was entitled



ABOVE: Members of the Queensland Branch pose for a group photo.



ABOVE: Members of the Riverina Branch at the Soil 2000 Conference were Tapas Biswas (L), Craig Russel, Michelle Kennedy, Mark Fraser and Jason Condon (R).



ABOVE: The Research Farms field tour visited an automated rain-out shelter at the Crop and Food Research Station at Lincoln



ABOVE: Trevor Webb led the Alluvial Soils field tour and is pictured here using a penetrometer designed in New Zealand.



ABOVE: Lunch "on the road" on the Alluvial Soils field tour.

"Development of a single point phosphorus sorption index for Australian soils", and was co-authored by P.W. Moody and C.J.P. Gourley. Yong Li is a student at the University of Melbourne in the Institute of Land and Food. His paper was entitled "Development of a spatially-distributed model of water and nutrient management" and was co-authored by D. Chen and R.E. White. ASSSI outgoing president, Graham Price presented each winner with a cheque for \$350 and a certificate will be forwarded to each in 2001.

A choice of five field tours were available to conference delegates examining Soils and Waste Management, Alluvial Soils in Canterbury, Soils and Viticulture in Canterbury, Soil Water Management or Lincoln Research farms. The field tours all culminated in a dinner at a local vineyard.

The Conference Dinner was held mid-week and proved a great opportunity for the Master of Ceremonies, New Zealander Ants Roberts (AgResearch) to have a go at the Australian guests (all in good spirits).

Both societies held General Meetings during the week of the conference at which executive positions were handed over. The ASSSI Federal Council will rotate to Western Australia in 2001-2 after two years in Queensland (details on page 8).

The conference organising committee is to be congratulated on a well organised and professionally run conference which allowed all delegates to make the most of the terrific venue and to enjoy themselves. The next joint conference of the two societies will be held in 2004 in Australia. The ASSSI will hold another National Conference in 2002.



ABOVE: Prof Winfried Blum from the IUSS with the incoming and outgoing presidents of both societies at the Conference Dinner. From left is Graham Price, Ron McLaren, Prof Blum, Lyn Abbott and Alan Palmer.

Soil 2000: A Tourist's Viewpoint

Karen Smith from the Victorian Branch gives a newcomer's perspective on the joint NZSSS/ASSSI Conference

As a relative newcomer to soil science and a novice at Australian and New Zealand Joint Soils Conferences, I felt very much like a tourist exploring new territory at the recent Soil 2000 Conference. Held in the stunning surrounds of Lincoln University on the South Island of NZ, the conference was off to a great start with a fabulous location and marvellous facilities. To add an extra bit of interest, the World Series Women's Cricketers were also staying and playing at Lincoln.

As someone who is an urban tree/soil person, the anticipated agricultural focus of the conference was at first a bit daunting. Ever the thrill seeker, I got tangled up with the mathematical modellers in the Solute Transport workshop on the first day. It took some time to recover from all the revelations surrounding Burn's equation, and to convince myself I hadn't come to the wrong conference.

My optimism returned when I found all the soil/tree people on the second day and had a great time chatting to them over the week. I even found the few people interested in urban soils. Forgive me Prof. White, but I avoided the soil chemistry sessions. A girl has to give herself a break sometime.

The focus was not just on agriculture, however. The topics and papers presented at the conference illustrated the trend identified by Prof. Ron McLaren in his plenary paper, Soil Science: the key environ-

mental science for the 21st century, that the focus of these joint conferences has been moving away from traditional pedology and soil chemistry into topics encompassing contemporary environmental issues. These issues include acid sulphate soils, managing pesticides in soils, protection and remediation of soils, managing nutrients in agriculture to meet environmental objectives, waste management and much much more!

A large and diverse conference such as this is great for keeping up in your areas of interest, but also a great opportunity to find out about topics that are way outside your expertise. To this end I attended the waste management field trip, not realising Lincoln was such a player in this area and that Ron McLaren is a significant guru. We even got to go under ground with Ron's lysimeters. His explanation of how they collected the cow urine was just bit kinky. All the field trips were deemed successful, as was the winery dinner afterwards.

So a great week of science, networking and socialising was had by all. The conference was very well organised and everything went very smoothly, no mean feat with 340 delegates, and very much due to the skills of the Lincoln University conference administrators. Congratulations to New Zealand Society of Soil Science for a successful conference!

2002 National Conference

The 2002 ASSSI National Soils Conference is proposed for Sunday 1 to Friday 6 December 2002 on the campus of the University of Western Australia.

A preliminary Organising Committee has been selected and the following persons have accepted positions:

- * Mr Keith Lindbeck (Chair)
- * Dr Andrew Rate
- * Mr David Williamson
- * Dr CX Tang
- * Assoc Prof Richard Bell

For more information or brochures contact Keith Lindbeck (details on back page).

Conference Proceedings

Copies of the proceedings of the Soil 2000 Conference are available for purchase from Executive Officer Alice Bass.

The proceedings come as three volumes:

Vol 1: Plenary Papers

Vol 2: Oral Papers

Vol 3: Poster Papers (not yet to hand)

Plenary papers may be published in a future issue of the Australian Journal of Soil Research.

Your New ASSSI Federal Council

Taking the ASSSI reins for two years from January 2001 is the new Western Australian based Federal Council consisting of Lyn Abbott (President), Judy Eastham (Secretary), Keith Lindbeck (Treasurer), Daniel Murphy (Profile Editor) and branch presidents or their proxy delegates.

The ASSSI constitution provides that every two years the responsibility for providing a Federal Council will rotate amongst the branches. Immediately previous federal councils have been based in Queensland (1999-2000) and New South Wales

(1997-98). To ensure a smooth transition between Councils incoming presidents will usually have served as Vice-President in the previous Federal Council. With teleconferencing capabilities, incoming president Lyn Abbott has been able to participate in all federal council meetings in the past two years.

The new Council aims to continue pursuing many of the issues identified by the previous Council, but will bring a different focus and some fresh ideas. They are keen to have feedback and interaction from members and their contact details appear on the back page of this issue of *Profile*.



LEFT: Members of the new Federal Council include (from left) WA Branch President Andrew Rate, Federal Council President Lyn Abbott, Federal Treasurer Keith Lindbeck and Profile Editor Daniel Murphy.

Meet new Profile Editor - Daniel Murphy

Daniel started his research career at CSIRO and then moved to England where he worked at Rothamsted - an internationally renowned research institute containing the oldest agricultural trials in the world (since 1840's). His four years overseas focused on using ^{15}N isotopes to study the supply, and loss of, N from agricultural soils and the impact of N deposition on N cycling in forest systems. Most of his spare time was spent camping and climbing in the Peak District or travelling through Europe. His favourite city is Rome and his recommended country to visit is Norway (in summer).

Daniel returned to Perth in 1999 to help build an agricultural sustainability program within the Centre for Land Rehabilitation at The University of Western Australia. He also participates in lecturing and supervises a number of students.

His current research focuses on soil organic matter fractions, microbial processes, nutrient cycling, soil quality indicators and sustainable management practices. Within these projects he still maintains strong research links with the UK - thus his

absence as editor from this issue (hope you packed your thermals).

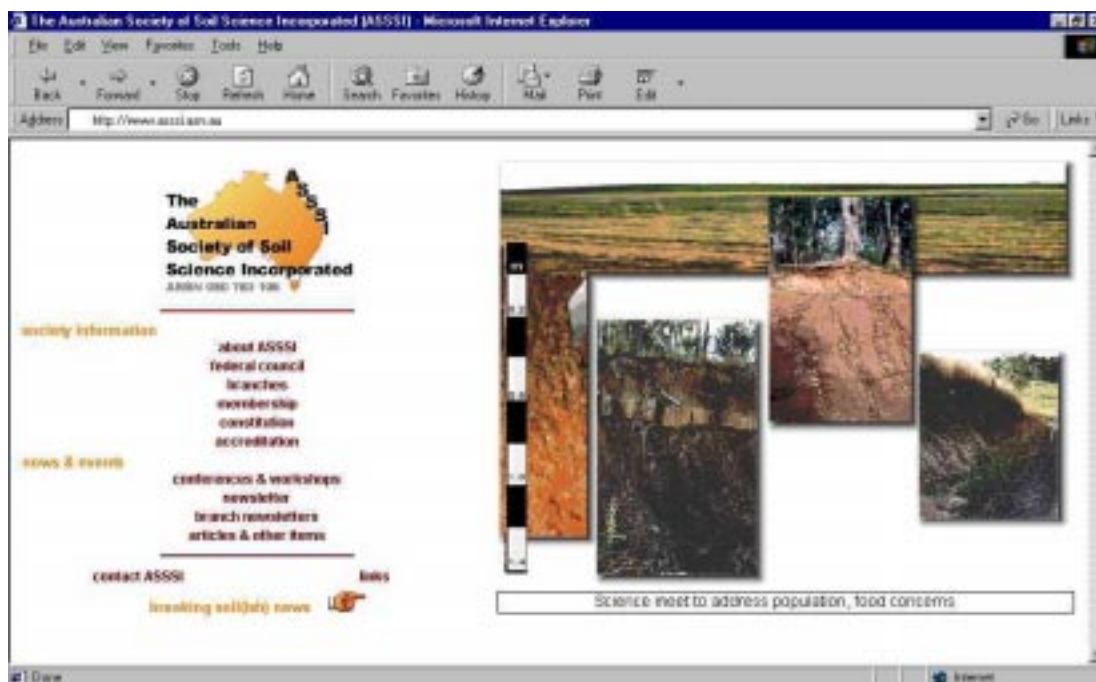
He is involved in numerous extension activities and co-ordinates a workshop on Soil Biological Fertility. He also runs an 'Ask Dr Dirt' QandA web page for farmers through the Western Australian No-Tillage Farmers Association (WANTFA). His general aim is to promote soil fertility within Western Australia by narrowing the gap between scientists and farmers.

Daniel sees the role of *Profile* editor as a means of raising the awareness of research within Australia and the team in Perth are keen to encourage younger researchers to join the society. In subsequent issues Daniel will be profiling the other WA branch members that will be running the ASSSI for the next 2 years.



ASSSI Website Changes Address

ASSSI Webmaster Derek Yates updates members on the new-look website, with fresh material, links and a new address.



The society's website has moved. As most readers will hopefully know by now, the new address is: <http://www.asssi.asn.au> ('asn' stands for association).

The reason for the change is to guarantee continuity of the site into the future. The old site was generously sponsored by a local networking company (RIVERCORP), but continued availability was not certain. The old address is still functional, but will be discontinued in 2001.

It was decided by council (*Profile* 123) to register a name which would properly represent the society, and which the society would control. The new 'site' is a redirect hosting, which redirects users to the home of the web pages. This option allows the society to relocate the pages as required, keep the cost minimal (\$13.33 per month), and avoid intrusive advertising content, which I believe members prefer.

The home page consists of :

- * Pointers to content, divided into two subject areas, 'society information' and 'news and events'
- * Pointers to (ASSSI) contacts, a links page (other societies and sites of interest) and
- * the news ticker (a bit vague, but 'soil' is in each article somewhere, and it's free).

The society information area is self explanatory, federal council details, branch contacts, copies of documents such as the constitution. By definition,

this is an information area, hopefully helpful but not too exciting.

The news area is where users can find out a bit about the society, what members are doing, what is going on, and what is of interest to the society. It contains newsletters (federal and branch) and conference news etc.

As 'webmaster' I attempt to keep the site up to date, and relevant to the society, I do not think we need to make the site a world beater with gimmicks all over the place, but I would like to see a bit more general interest content. For example I really liked Ian Hollingsworth's idea of featuring a soil profile in each issue of *Profile*, and would happily incorporate such profile descriptions onto the web pages (assuming more than one become available). This way the site can become a useful reference site as well as being of general interest.

I would also like to develop online feedback for members regarding membership status, and expertise contact lists etc.

Almost any news can be incorporated onto the pages, but I need to be given the information to make that possible. The web can be a useful marketing tool. There is no need to waffle on about how the internet will save the world, reality is that it can be a useful way to spread information to members, and show non members (wherever they are) who and what the ASSSI is all about.



Branch news

QUEENSLAND

New faces on the committee

The Queensland Branch would like to welcome our new Secretary, **Robin Bruce**, and our new Meetings Organiser, **Michelle Martens** to the committee. No doubt they will continue in the fine tradition of past committee members. Robin has previously served on the committee as the North Queensland Proxy and is looking forward to his role as secretary. Michelle is a new ASSSI member and is sure to take us to fresh and exciting meeting places.

Dirt course a huge success

84 people attended the Queensland Branch Refresher Training Course held on 1-2 November 2000 at Toowoomba. The course was a great success, including presentations on soil fertility, land evaluation, organic carbon, acidity, salinity, soil management, erosion and much more. The theme of the course was three-fold: identifying soil physical and chemical properties; soil data and its applications; and management of soils using research case studies. The proceedings of the course (20 papers) entitled Understanding Soils, Soil Data and Land Management Issues are available for purchase from the Branch Treasurer, Angus McElnea, ph: 07 3896 9553, email: Angus.McElnea@dnr.qld.gov.au, for the following prices:

Hardcopy \$40 (members) \$50 (non-members)
CD \$20 (members) \$25 (non-members)

Student award winners

The Queensland Branch 2000 Undergraduate Awards for Excellence in Soil Science were awarded to **Peter Davies** (University of the Sunshine Coast, supervised by Dr **Rabi Misra**), **Elizabeth Meier** (University of Queensland, supervised by Prof **Bing So**) and **Dan Rattray** (University of Southern Queensland, supervised by Dr **Steve Raine**). The students were presented with a certificate, year's membership to ASSSI, copy of the Refresher Training Course proceedings, and a \$50 cheque, and were invited to present their research projects at the OGM on the 22 November. Unfortunately Peter was unable

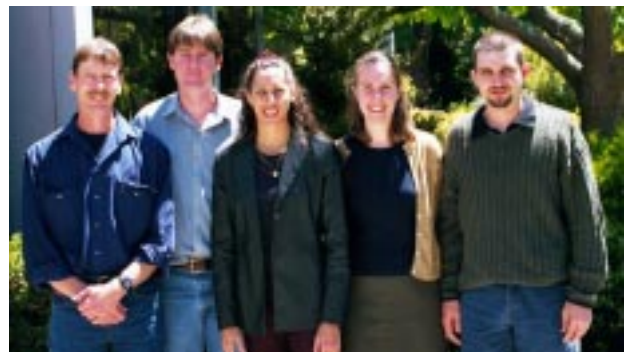
to attend as he had an 8:00 exam the following morning so Rabi Misra accepted Peter's award on his behalf. Peter completed a research project on 'The effect of organic matter on available calcium in a Ferrosol and commercial topsoils: implications for soil management'. Elizabeth's project was 'An investigation of amendments for use on a crusting/hardsetting soil under sugar cane production'. Her project recommended minimal mixing of the A and B horizons, cultivation at the appropriate water content, and the application of filterpress, coarse sand or PAM to improve structure. Dan's project was 'Land Disposal of Dairy Manure: Water Quality Impacts' and investigated the effects of 25, 50 and 75 t application rates followed by rainfall on infiltration, runoff and water quality. Congratulations to our three student winners!

Field Trip, April 2001

A one-day field trip on the Sunshine Coast is proposed for April 2001 to study the soils and geology of the area, coastal development and other topical issues. If you are interested, please contact Doug Smith, ph: 07 3896 9792, email: Doug.Smith@dnr.qld.gov.au

Student sponsorship to NZ

Four students were sponsored by the Queensland Branch to attend the New Zealand conference in December 2000. Congratulations go to **Suzie Reichman** (University of Queensland), **Justin Claridge** (University of Queensland), **Don Barnes** (University of Southern Queensland) and **Dan Rattray** (University of Southern Queensland). Suzie and Justin presented papers at the conference entitled 'Preliminary evaluation of the metal tolerance of Australian trees' and 'Spatial prediction of soil properties for forest modelling' respectively. All 4 students had a great time, enjoying the excellent facilities, presentations and networking opportunities.



ABOVE: Sponsored students Don Barnes (L), Dan Rattray, with Kylie Hey (Qld branch president), Suzie Reichman and Justin Claridge at the Soil 2000 Conference.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Annual General Meeting

The WA Branch held its AGM on 15 December at the Department of Soil Science and Plant Nutrition (SSPN) at the University of Western Australia. Dr **Andrew Rate** (SSPN) takes over from **Ian Fillery** as President of the WA Branch, while **Christoph Hinz** (SSPN) and **Martin Wells** (Land Assessment P/L) were elected as Secretary and Treasurer, respectively. **David Allen** was re-elected for another term as the WA branch editor for Profile. The highlight of the year was the triennial conference organised by the branch committee. This year, the conference was held at the Muresk Institute of Agriculture and the high standard of papers from previous conferences was maintained. The meeting was then addressed by Federal President-elect, Prof. **Lyn Abbott** who briefly discussed the challenges facing the promotion of soil science and the Society, particularly in Western Australia.

News from SSPN at UWA

Christoph Hinz took up the soil physics lecturership on 14 February. Christoph comes to us from the University of Gottingen, Germany. His research interest focuses on solute transport and solute interactions with soil solid phase as well as processes and modelling of water and gas movement in soil. Transport and retention of heavy metals and organic pollutants are of particular interest together with methods that will help in elucidating mechanisms governing retentions and transport of solutes in soil.

He attended the Soils conference in NZ where I expect he introduced himself to some of your members.

Ben Thomas arrived in January from Adelaide to work on an ARC project to optimise fertiliser placement for improved grain production.

Zakaria Solaiman joined the Soil Biology group in April from Bangladesh via Tokyo (where he attained his PhD and did some post doctoral work). He works on the ARC grant 'Impact of phosphorous uptake by communities of arbuscular mycorrhiza fungi on jarrah forest understory plants'.

Richard Cookson was awarded a 3 year post doctoral fellowship from the Foundation for Research, Science and Technology (FRST) to work at UWA and Reading. He commenced in November and will investigate 'The activity and composition of the microbial community in relation to nitrogen cycling in contrasting organically managed soils in Australia and the United Kingdom'.

Professor **Raul Moral-Herrero** from Universidad Miguel Hernandez de Elche, Alicante, Spain, visited the mineralogy group for three months to make a comparative study of heavy metals in WA calcareous soils compared with Spanish soils.

Wanphen Wiriyakitnatekkul (Pen) from Department of Land Development, Bangkok, received a training award from the Crawford Fund for International Agricultural Research to spend three months at UWA learning to use modern XRD, TEM, SEM, DTA, TGA Bet and spectroscopic techniques. She worked on Thai soils relating to the Department of Land Development project.

Soils Theses

Mr Jeffery Boersma
Masters, University of Western Australia
Identity of Phytophthora species associated with wildflower farms in South Western Australia.

Dr Satendra Kumar
PhD, University of Western Australia
The saprophytic and parasitic behaviour of Rhizoctonia solani Kuhn [Thanatephorus cucumeris (Frank) Donk] anastomosis group 11 (AG-11), the causal organism of a severe hypocotyl rot of lupins (Lupinus angustifolius L.) in Geraldton district of Western Australia.

Dr Yash Pal
PhD, University of Western Australia
Mineralogy, chemistry and availability of potassium in sandplain and duplex soils of 400-650 mm rainfall zone of WA.

Dr Kirsty Bayliss
PhD, University of Western Australia
Genetic variation in clover scorch (Kabatiella caulivora [Kirchn.] Karak.) races, and physiological and biochemical mechanisms of resistance to clover scorch disease in subterranean clover (Trifolium subterraneum L.)

Dr Deanna Rokich
PhD, University of Western Australia
Banksia Woodland Restoration.

Dr Anle Tieu
PhD, University of Western Australia
The interaction of burial, heat and smoke in the alleviation of seed dormancy in selected southwestern Australian plant species.

Dr Ja-On Park
PhD, University of Western Australia
Biological control of plant parasitic nematodes.

Australian Standard - New Zealand Standard 1547:2000 is out

AS/NZS 1547:2000 "On-site domestic-wastewater management" has recently been published. This standard for the first time incorporates a wide range of soils criteria for assessing the ability of soils to accept and renovate septic tank effluent and treated septic tank effluent. It employs basic hydraulic concepts as well relevant general soil chemical and soil microbiological knowledge to predict the capacity of the soil to adsorb phosphates, its reaction to salts and sodium, its ability to supply water to vegetation on effluent disposal or re-use sites, and its overall function in protecting the surrounding environment.

The Standard has been about five years in the making. The Committee members came from all Australian States and New Zealand, representing State government bodies, local government and industry, as well as a few independent experts. There were even two soil scientists on the Committee: Greg Chapman and Robert van de Graaff, the latter serving also as the official representative of ASSSI. In the early days, Warwick MacDonald produced an excellent draft of the procedure and criteria for site assessments, but somehow this document seems to have been ignored or it did not get to the Project Manager.

Members of ASSSI may be interested to learn that the old, ad hoc soil percolation test, a falling head test, developed by Henry Ryon in New York State in 1926 as a means to determine the relationship between soil type and the hydraulic loading of the seepage (disposal) fields, was finally abandoned in favour of the constant head well permeameter (see Talsma and Hallam¹). Ryon's test was based on the assumption that water added to a test hole only moves downwards through the bottom, so that the 'percolation rate' is independent of the shape and size of the hole. This notion survived modern-day soil physics until the mid seventies, which only goes to show how little soil scientists have bothered to interact with the environmental health profession.

Two theses completed at La Trobe University in 1982, ably supervised by Steve Willatt, have contributed a great deal to the understanding of the processes of wastewater flow, renovation and utilisation by plants²³. The results have found their way into the new Standard as they did in the Victorian Code of Practice - Septic Tanks some years before. To my knowledge, Ken Day's and Joost Brouwer's work remains the only reliable Victorian data base on the water and salt balances involved in effluent disposal and re-use, and the fate of nutrients and bacteria. At the time, others were also conducting an experiment

on sealed evapotranspiration systems, but in that project the vegetation outdid the water losses from a Class A standard pan by several 100 percent during winter, but not in summer. The only logical explanation was that the seals had been punctured during construction.

AS1547 relies heavily on soil texture and soil structure to predict the long-term effluent absorption rate (LTAR) in disposal trenches, even though Brouwer's thesis appears to be the only information source with an empirical relationship between LTAR and Ksat. AS1547 therefore does not insist on measuring Ksat as part of a site assessment.

Gerritse et al.⁴⁵ in Western Australia have also done valuable work on the fate of N and P from septic tank systems, which in its generality applies everywhere where soils have similar qualities.

Is there too much soil science in AS1547? Some people think so. Of course it is nowhere near enough to train a soil scientist, but it is an unwelcome warning to those that have treated on-site issues merely as a simple recipe to be followed that they have not done justice to their work. AS1547 recommends that site assessments should be done only by appropriately trained individuals, not as happens in Victoria, by just anyone who possesses a ute and an auger.

Whitehead & Associates Pty Ltd of Newcastle is currently presenting courses, with an appreciable basic soil science element, on the functioning of on-site systems in various States. Soil scientists, after familiarising themselves more with this specific application of soil science, should have fine opportunities to make further contributions to a needy professional field. Bob Patterson, also a member of ASSSI, based in Armidale, is already doing this. How about you other soil scientists?

Robert van de Graaff

1 Talsma, T. and Hallam, P.M., 1980. Hydraulic conductivity measurement of forest catchments. *Aust. J. Soil Res.* vol.18, p.139-148.

2 Brouwer, J., 1982. Septic tank effluent absorption systems near Melbourne, Victoria - Land capability and design. PhD thesis.

3 Day, K.J., 1982. On-site treatment and disposal of household wastewater with particular reference to sealed evapotranspiration systems. M.Ag.Sc. thesis.

4 Gerritse, R. G., Adeney, J.A., and Hosking, J. 1995. Nitrogen losses from a domestic septic tank on the Darling Plateau in Western Australia. *Wat.Res.*, vol.29, No.9, p.2055-2058

5 Gerritse, R.G., Adeney, J.A., Dimmock, G.M., and Oliver, Y., 1995. Retention of nitrate and phosphate in soils of the Darling Plateau in Western Australia: Implications for domestic septic tank systems. *Aust. J. Soil Res.*, vol.33, P.353-367

AJSR Contents

Contents of the Australian Journal of Soil Research, Volume 38, No 6, 2000.

Volume 38, No 6

Review: A bioavailability-based rationale for controlling metal and metalloid contamination of agricultural land in Australia and New Zealand.

M. J. McLaughlin, R. E. Hamon, R. G. McLaren, T. W. Speir, S. L. Rogers

Effect of regular irrigation with dairy farm effluent on soil organic matter and soil microbial biomass.

G. F. Barkle, R. Stenger, P. L. Singleton, D. J. Painter

Towards a single-point method for measuring phosphate sorption by soils.

N. J. Barrow

Quantifying variability of soil physical properties within soil series to address modern land-use issues on the Canterbury Plains, New Zealand.

T. H. Webb, J. J. Claydon, S. R. Harris

Field measured mobile water fraction for soils of contrasting texture.

A. E. A. Okom, R. E. White, L. K. Heng

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

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 dmurphy@agric.uwa.edu.au.

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



Riverina Branch Conference

"The Use of EM Technology in Agricultural Resource Management"

3-5 July 2001

Yanco Agricultural Institute

Electromagnetic induction measurements are being made at various scales and using a variety of instruments to address a range of issues including salinity management, irrigated land suitability, irrigation farm layout and design. Use of the technology has progressed from a research instrument to a commercial survey tool being used within the rice, viticulture, horticultural and cotton industries and in dryland agriculture.

Conference Objectives: To explore the range of EM instruments being used in Australia, examine what purposes they are used for and how EM data is being integrated with other information.

Participants are invited to contribute papers or posters to address the important issues in the use of EM in agriculture.

Contact: geoff.beecher@agric.nsw.gov.au or (02) 6953 3478

NEW MEMBERS

The ASSI would like to welcome the following new members:

Andrew Bradbury

B App Sc
AGAL
Qld Branch
Areas of Interest:
laboratory analysis and
mangement

Gemma Nichol

B Env Sc (Hon)
La Trobe University
Vic Branch

Daniel Murphy

B Sc PG Dip PhD
University of WA
WA Branch
Areas of interest: soil
quality, organic matter,
agricultural
sustainability

Ian Oliver

B Env Mgt
Adelaide University
SA Branch
Areas of interest: soil
contaminants

Louise Clark

B Ag Sc (Hons)
University of Adelaide
SA Branch

Delphine Bentley

B Sc (Nat Res Mgt)
Dept Natural Resources
Qld Branch
Areas of interest:
rangelands natural
resource assessment

Michael Smith

B App Sc Grad Dip
M App Sc (Geology)
University of Ballarat
Vic Branch
Areas of interest:
regolith and soils
mapping, hydrology

Joanne Menegazzo

B Sc (undergraduate)
Univ of Wollongong
NSW Branch
Areas of interest:
geochemistry,
emissions from effluent
irrigated soils

Samuel North

B Nat Res
NSW Agriculture
NSW Branch
Areas of interest: soil
moisture monitoring

Annette Nolan

B Sc (Hons) PhD
CSIRO Land & Water
SA Branch

Yong Li

B Sc M Sc
University of
Melbourne
Vic Branch
Peter Dahlhaus
B App Sc M App Sc
Dahlhaus
Environmental Geology
Pty Ltd
Vic Branch

Margaret McArthur

B Ag Sc (Hons)
University of Ballarat
Vic Branch

Andrew Butler

B Sc (Hons) PhD
Natural Resource
Assessments Pty Ltd
Qld Branch
Areas of interest:
environmental
consulting, mine
restoration, land use
planning

Julian Wakefield

B App Sc
Reme Soilmaster
NSW Branch
Areas of interest: land
and environmental
management

David Manning

B Sc (Hons) PhD
Dept Natural Resources
Qld Branch
Areas of interest: field
survey of land
resources,
tephrostratigraphy

Jennifer Carson

B Sc
University of WA
WA Branch
Areas of interest: labile
organic matter

Steven Field

B Sc
University of Ballarat
Vic Branch
Areas of interest:
raised bed cropping,
physical analysis

Yong Li

I graduated from the Department of Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry of Nanjing Agricultural University, China in 1989, majoring in soil science, especially soil chemistry and soil geography. My bachelor thesis was about the application of sewage sludge in agriculture. In the same year, I was awarded a scholarship for a Masters degree by the Institute of Applied Ecology, Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) to study the regionalisation of ecology and economy using a Geographic Information System (GIS). From then on, I was fascinated by the power of GIS, and it became my main research interest.

After graduation, I was employed by the Institute of Soil Science, CAS as a research fellow to study the behaviour of organic pollutants (pesticides, herbicides

and industrial chemicals) in soil and water environments at local site and regional scales. There I have spent about six years researching the degradation, transforma-



New Member Profiles

Annette Nolan

I began working in soil science in 1997 after completing my PhD at the University of Newcastle. I have worked with BHP Research on exploration geochemistry, studying selective extractions of model soil phases and applying these methods to orientation surveys over deeply buried mineral deposits. This work led to a Postdoctoral Fellowship at the Geological Survey of Canada working with Gwendy Hall's Analytical Method Development group. At the GSC I was involved in developing a selective multi-element extraction of soils that included gold, platinum and palladium, using ICP-MS and ICP-AES for analysis. I also investigated analytical issues in ICP-AES analysis of samples with high total dissolved solids (e.g. groundwaters).

In November 2000 I began working at CSIRO Land and Water, Adelaide as an analytical speciation chemist in Mike McLaughlin's group. A new ICP-MS instrument



will soon be purchased and I will be involved in developing a range of on-line and off-line metal ion speciation techniques for analysis of soil solutions. These include ASV, a Donnan cell, resins, ISE, HPLC-ICP-MS and CZE-ICP-MS.

I hope that membership of ASSSI will help keep me up-to-date on other research-

ers and their work in the soil science field, and also provide a contact base. I look forward to meeting other members at future social functions and conferences.

Peter Dalhaus

I'm one of those geologists who should have joined ASSSI about 15 years ago. In a career that has wandered from Geotechnical consultancy, to Engineering and Environmental Geology (Victorian Geological Survey), to Dam Geology (Melbourne Board of Works), to Academia (University of Ballarat), the common thread has been pondering the mysteries of landscape processes and the regolith. This pondering continues today as I juggle PhD studies with academia and consulting.

Over the past decade Richard MacEwan, a banjo-playing soil scientist and fellow academic, has kindled my



interest in pedology. Together we have explored the landscape processes and soils of south west Victoria, resulting in the publication of heretical papers on dryland salinity processes and other land degradation issues.

My current research is on catchment characterisation for dryland salinity processes in the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority's (CCMA) region. The CCMA have provided funding for a PhD program, which I'm undertaking through the Centre for Groundwater Studies in Adelaide (Flinders Uni). Several other groups are contributing to this research, notably the Colac Otway Shire who provides data gained through a consulting project in Land Capability Assessment. The initial focus of the consulting project has been the management of landslide risk, although it will ultimately include all constraints to land-use, including salinity and waterlogging.

The third partition of my time is taken by part-time lecturing at the University of Ballarat where I torture students who undertake studies in Hydrology and Geomorphology. For recreation I'm completing the construction of an earth-sheltered home located in the bush south of Buninyong - even in my pastime I can enjoy regolith studies! Joining ASSSI should keep me in touch with other professionals who can see enlightenment in rotten rock.

tion, and transport of pesticides in the Red Soil region of Southern China.

In 1998, I became involved in an ACIAR project between The University of Melbourne and Institute of Soil Science, CAS, and also was awarded a MIRS and MIRFS for my Ph.D program under the supervision of Professor Robert E. White and Dr. Deli Chen in the University of Melbourne. I am working on developing a spatially distributed model of water and nutrient management, to study the impact of intensive cropping systems on groundwater quality in the North China Plain. The

major concerns of this program are the temporal and spatial variability of gaseous losses of N fertilisers from the soil, and nitrate leaching through the soil root zone.

Again, my main interests are on GIS applications, and to develop a spatial model for the dynamics of soil water and nutrient (N and P) cycling for the intensive cropping systems in North China Plain, and grazed pastures of catchments in Northeast Victoria. I hope that my ASSSI membership will keep me up to date with the current front line of soil science research, and sharing work with other interested scientists in Australia and the world.

ASSSI Medal Nominations Due Soon

Nominations for the 2001 Prescott and ASSSI Publication medals close on 31st March, with award recipients announced later this year. The Prescott and Publication medals are just two of the three major awards bestowed by the ASSSI nationally. Below are a few details on each of the Society's medals, their significance and how nominations are made.

Prescott Medal

The J.A. Prescott Medal of Soil Science is awarded annually to a person, not necessarily a society member, who has made an outstanding contribution to soil science. Awards are not necessarily made each year. The award recipient is chosen by the Prescott Medal Committee which consists of three ASSSI members from separate branches.

ASSSI Publication Medal

This award is given annually for a publication on any subject of soil research (as currently defined in the Australian Journal of Soil Research). The publication is chosen on the basis of scientific merit, relevance to soil science and effectiveness in communicating the paper's contents to the reader. It may be under joint authorship, however only the senior author is eligible to receive the award. The award is normally for work carried out in Australia and authors should be under 35 on 1 January of the year of the award. A submitted paper not receiving an award in one year may be resubmitted in a subsequent year.

J.K. Taylor Medal in Soil Science

The John K. Taylor, OBE, Gold Medal in Soil Science is presented at each national conference and results from a gift of money in 1983 from the Taylor family to commemorate the life and work of John Kingsley Taylor, OBE. The medal is awarded to a soil scientist (not necessarily a member of the society) for the most meritorious research publication in any form (paper, book, map, video, film or other) acceptable to the award committee on the basis of results from the author's own work in the field of soil science since 1 January 2001. The subject shall deal with soil research (as currently defined by the Australian Journal of Soil Research) and shall be related to Australian and/or New Zealand soils, or any other soils if undertaken by an Australian or New Zealand soil scientist. The award recipient is chosen by the J. K. Taylor Medal Committee consisting of five ASSSI members.

Nomination

Nominations must be prepared in each case by a nominator and a seconder, and supported by the signatures of three additional financial ASSSI members submitted in triplicate in a sealed envelope to the Honorary Secretary Keith Lindbeck, ASSSI PO Box 144 Bull Creek WA 6149 by March 31st 2001. Further information about ASSSI awards is available in the constitution.

Membership Benefits

Profile readers should be aware of several benefits available to them as financial members of ASSSI in 2001. These options have been negotiated on behalf of members by the Federal Council at no cost to the society. Members are encouraged to support those organisations which support the ASSSI.

40% discount on AJSR print subscription

As highlighted in a previous issue of *Profile*, substantial discounts on the normal subscription costs of the Australian Journal of Soil Research will be available when paying your ASSSI membership fees in 2001. Six print issues of AJSR in 2001 will cost just \$90 if the option to subscribe is exercised on the 2001 ASSSI renewal notices which were posted in January.

Up to 30% discount on country clothing from Nungar Trading Company

Mail order country clothing specialists, Nungar Trading Company, are providing members of ASSSI with vouchers to receive from 20 to 30% discount off the recommended retail price of items from their catalogue including the RM Williams, Gloster, Akubra, Thomas Cook and Wrangler lines of clothing and boots. Discount vouchers have been inserted in this issue of *Profile*, and includes a gift voucher for \$100 which is redeemable on the purchase of popular styles of RM Williams boots.

FEDERAL COUNCIL - ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2000

COUNCIL MEMBERS

President:	Mr Graham Price
Vice-President:	Associate Professor Lyn Abbott
Honorary Secretary:	Dr Steven Raine
Honorary Treasurer:	Mr David Lester
Honorary Editor:	Ms Jonnie White
Branch Representatives:	Dr Rob Loch 1/1/00-30/6/00 (President, Queensland) Ms Kylie Hey 31/7/00-31/12/00 (President, Queensland) Associate Professor Leigh Sullivan (President, New South Wales) Dr Neal Menzies (Proxy, Victoria) Mr Col Ahern (Proxy, ACT) Dr John Standley (Proxy, Riverina) Associate Professor David Edwards (Proxy, South Australia) Dr John Thompson (Proxy, Western Australia)

COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Council met on four occasions throughout the year to conduct the Society's business, planning and administration. The Vice-President and Executive Officer participated in the meetings via telephone conferencing. Between Council meetings, the Executive Sub-Committee were involved in undertaking the Society's business which necessitated regular email discussions. During the previous year, Council established three Sub-Committees to review the Society's activities and make proposals to Council in relation to (i) accreditation, (ii) student development and (iii) marketing. These sub-committees provided formal submissions to the Council throughout the year. Major Federal Council activities/actions during 2000 include:

SOCIETY AWARDS

The 2000 J.A. Prescott Medal of Soil Science was awarded to Dr Maurice Mulcahy in August 2000. The award recognised Dr Mulcahy's lifetime contribution to both CSIRO and the State Govt, and his courageous move between the two areas; the external recognition of his work in the broader community, for example, the AM and the award of DSc honoris causa; his leadership in both ASSSI, and as Chairman of expert committees advising WA policy makers; and in general, his capacity to enhance communication between scientists and policy makers.

ADMINISTRATION

Annual Return

During the year, the Council finalised the annual return for the 1999 reporting year in accordance with the Society's incorporation requirements and lodged the necessary report with the Australian Capital Territory Department of Justice and Community Safety.

Operation of the Certified Professional Soil Scientist Scheme

The Council spent a considerable period of time over the last twelve months renegotiating the Certified Professional Soil Scientist agreement with the Australian Institute of Agricultural Science and Technology. The current agreement includes a more significant ASSSI role in the management and potential modification of the Standards associated with this scheme.

Student Support - 2000 National Conference attendance

The Council agreed to contribute matching funding up to a maximum of \$1000 per Branch for student attendance at the 2000 National Soils Conference to be held in New Zealand. Branches determined individual allocations to students.

ASSSI Representative on the AJSR Editorial Board

Associate Professor Leigh Sullivan continued to represent the Society on the Editorial Board of the Australian Journal of Soil Research during the year.

2010 IUSS Congress Bid

During the year, Council formally bid for the International Union of Soil Sciences World Congress of Soil Science to be held in 2010. The bid documents were presented to the Extraordinary General Meeting of the IUSS held in April 2000 in Thailand. The bid proposal was recognised by the IUSS General Meeting but is unable to be voted upon until the 2002 IUSS General Meeting. There are not expected to be any other Countries nominate to hold this Congress.

PROFILE NEWSLETTER

Four issues of the Society newsletter "Profile" have been published during 2000. Two to three weeks before the deadline for an issue the editor has contacted each Branch for contributions. Some branches have nominated specific contact people. This is a big help in preparation and ensures that information from those Branches is regularly highlighted. Listings of new members have been included along with the profiles of selected new members. The printing of Profile has been undertaken by Cranbrook Press, Toowoomba and the mailing undertaken by Downs Mailing Services, Toowoomba. Advertising has been accepted in all issues with an average of \$570 income per issue. However, a special thanks is due to Environmental and Earth Sciences Pty Ltd who have been a consistent supporter of "Profile" throughout the year.

MEMBERSHIP

The total membership of the Society as at the 1st December 2000 was 832 of which 674 (81.1%) were financial. A total of 66 new members applied to the Society for membership during 2000 (This does not include those who are dual CPAG/CPSS). The split by Branch was as follows:

QLD	23	WA	13	VIC	11
NSW	8	RIVERINA	6	SA	5

At the beginning of the year ASSSI had a membership of 939. In April, this number was reduced by 200, due to members being removed who were more than 2 years in arrears at 31st March 2000. This took the membership down to 739. ASSSI has done well to increase membership to the current level of 813. This is due to the 66 new members throughout the year and the remainder gained by the dual CPAG/CPSS scheme. Hopefully if the same continues next year, ASSSI may again be up to the level of 1999.

The membership details by Branch and membership category is provided below. Note that the numbers in brackets indicate the financial members (as at 30/11/00) in each category.

BRANCH	ORDINARY	CPSS	STUDENT	RETIRED	HONORARY	TOTAL
ACT	36 (30)	15 (13)	1 (0)	8 (8)	2	62 (53)
NSW	86 (64)	48 (35)	18 (14)	8 (7)	3	163 (123)
QLD	128 (104)	59 (42)	22 (19)	13 (12)	5	227 (180)
Riverina	37 (27)	4 (4)	7 (7)	1 (1)	0	49 (39)
SA	47 (38)	20 (12)	8 (7)	17 (15)	3	95 (75)
Victoria	79 (67)	25 (18)	15 (12)	9 (9)	3	131 (109)
WA	57 (55)	10 (5)	13 (10)	8 (8)	3	91 (81)
Int'national	10 (10)	3 (1)	0 (0)	1 (1)	0	14 (12)
TOTAL	480 (395)	184 (130)	84 (69)	65 (61)	19	832 (674)

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

The main events taking place this year were:

- * Finally all financial Ordinary, Student, Retired and Honorary members have received a membership certificate. The CPSS ones will come next year.
- * A lot more members paid their subscriptions than in previous years. In 1999, 939 subscription notices were mailed and by the end of the year only 627 had paid. The listing of unfinancial names in the last issue of Profile has helped and a lot of members have requested information on what they owe - hopefully to pay it. Most members were positive in their responses to this.
- * Conversion of all the Society's records from 1 January 2000 onwards - ie income, expenditure, bank accounts and membership details to Quickbooks accounting package from Excel 97. It has been an enormous task, one I have only just completed, especially to have done in 2 months and in time for the first BAS and payment of our GST liability - which thankfully we received an extension for. My role previous to this was maintenance of the membership list and payments in Excel, sending out subscriptions/Society information packages and receiving subscription payments, as well as attending to member enquiries. Now there is a whole new dimension to the job in terms of the on-going tracking of all the Society's income and expenditure. I am sure that Quickbooks will make the task relatively straight-forward.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Society's financial statements are currently being prepared for both the BAS and the formal auditing process and will be presented separately.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

General

The objectives of this Federal Council were prepared in early 1999. The objectives we set in the areas of administration, financial control, membership, joint National conference with NZSSS, Profile and the Constitution review, were achieved. The objectives for CPSS were partially achieved, with the signing of the revised Memorandum of Agreement with AIAST. There are still several issues (especially the operation of the Soil Science Assessment Panel and the Soil Science Standards Committee) which require attention. Some of these, particularly the set of standards to suit the needs of soil scientists, are being addressed.

The Marketing Sub-committee prepared a report which was handed to the Federal Council in February and summarised in Profile 122.

Some unforeseen imposts required attention. The Society's financial position still needs constant attention. Several unplanned financial stresses occurred, due to the necessity to register for an ABN along with the implementation of the GST. Future Councils will need to keep watch for similar issues. One other major issue involves tackling the effective membership base. Many of our "sleeping" members (unfinancial) have been removed from the membership database and no longer receive Profile.

Another development was the opportunity to host the 19th World Congress of Soil Science in 2010. IUSS has given unofficial advice to continue the planning process, and this is progressing under the leadership of Bob Gilkes.

Concerns for next Council.

- * Administration - arrangement with the Executive Officer to be agreed and signed for the next 18 months.
- * Financial - cost of running ASSSI has outstripped its income so there is a need to spend less and attract more members or a larger income. There is also a need to continue to prepare realistic budgets. GST has caused a huge administrative hassle within the Council and with member Branches. Branches are being encouraged to register separately for an ABN to enable the processing of Branch payments from Federal Council. Once the appropriate procedures are in place the administration should continue to operate smoothly.

- * Membership - there is a need for new members who are prepared to pay their subscriptions on time.
- * Chartered Professional Scheme - needs to be acted upon. Responses from the Soil Science Assessment Panel and the Soil Science Standards Committee of CPSS are required so the process of development can progress.
- * 19th World Congress of Soil Science - steering committee under chairmanship of Bob Gilkes, development of broad objectives, selection of motivated people for various committees, contact with venue (Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre), and IUSS are required to progress over the next 4 years. Most important to select the most suitable person to be the IUSS President in 2006 - 2010.
- * Communication with members – Profile, in future needs to be maintained and developed as required, as the major communication medium for members. – Website, develop, up-date and improve, Derek Yates agreed to continue as the webmaster. Branch committees should be encouraged to make more use of this medium for communication.
- * 2002 National Soils Conference - in Perth. Planning has already commenced for 1-6 December 2002. Hopefully a sound budget will help provide sufficient surplus that will assist the ailing balance sheet.
- * Joint ASSSI/NZSSS national Conference in 2004 in Australia - concept of sharing the surplus with the non-host society has been raised informally. Further action is required to formalise and to agree on an arrangement between the two Societies. Suggest this be done well before the 2002-2004 Council takes office.
- * Student Development - communication channels between interested Branches and Federal Council have been set in place, to share ideas, activities, and to develop an plan of action to attract students to join and participate in ASSSI activities.

Thanks to: - Alice Bass, Executive Officer, membership database is in best shape for years, subscription notices are more readable. Changes to record keeping system (required by GST and BAS), implemented in a thorough manner, but with many extra hours of toil. Branches need to keep in touch with Alice to track people who have not paid their dues. - Steven Raine, Secretary and right-hand man, for enthusiastic approach to his role and keeping the agenda moving at meetings, has been a real asset to Council. - David Lester, Treasurer, kept an eagle-eye on the finances, made Council aware of problems as they arose, assisted with GST change. - Jonnie White, Editor of Profile, developed her creative streak and provided readable communication in the pages of the ASSSI newsletter. - all proxy delegates, who provided Branches with a voice at Council meetings, thank you for putting in the effort on behalf of the Branches. - Branch Presidents who kept in touch and provided support to Council's decisions. - Lyn Abbott, Vice President, thanks for your thoughtful consideration of contentious issues and for general support of the programs implemented by this Council.

I thank all members for their support and responses to the issues which were raised over the period of this Council. It was good to have some lively debate on some of the contentious issues of importance to the future of ASSSI. God provided me with good health and emotional support throughout the last 2 years, and for that I give thanks.

Incoming Council

The incoming President of ASSSI is Dr Lyn Abbott, Associate Professor in Soil Science at the University of Western Australia. Lyn graduated from University of Sydney BSc(Hons), and completed her PhD on the biology of the take-all fungus, at Monash University. She has held a teaching post at UWA since 1986, in the Soil Science and Plant Nutrition Department in the Faculty of Agriculture. She is well-known for her work on arbuscula mycorrhiza in agricultural and natural ecosystems. Lyn's interests outside of soil microbiology extend to improving the teaching process, student mentoring, and farmer education, through workshops on soil biology. Finally, to Lyn and your incoming Council, I trust you receive the support which I received. Good luck, and may God bless you and your Council and provide you with a fruitful and progressive two years.

Minutes of General Meeting - 4/12/00

A General Meeting of the ASSSI was held on the 4th December 2000 in the Stewart Building, Lincoln University, New Zealand

1. Opening

The President opened the meeting at 5.37 pm by welcoming members and visitors to the first ASSSI General Meeting to be held outside of Australia.

2. Attendance

Members Present: G Price, L Abbott, S Raine, D Lester, J White, K Hey, T Weatherly, L Sullivan, R Fitzpatrick, J Standley, T Biswas, R Gilkes, J Field, K Lindbeck, A Surapaneni, A Rab, A Okom, D Hive, P Hazelton, G Osborne, A Brown, A Young, R Harper, Z Xu, R Bramley, K Snars, B Johnson, A Rate, S Reichman, C Russell, G Anderson, D Barnes, A Biggs, M Grundy, r White, N Abraham, N Dalglish, N Griffiths, D Nash, R Morse, A Melland, L Burkitt, I Hollingsworth, G Chapman, I Fillery, U Xong, D Chen, W Bond, M Wong, S Irvine, J McGarity, R Lawrie, L Sparrow, R MacEwan, C Hignett

Visitors: WEH Blum (IUSS Secretary-General), W Hicks, P Rampart, J Claridge, J Issa

3. Appointment of Members to Approve the Minutes

In accordance with By-law 22, the meeting appointed K Lindbeck, K Hey and I Fillery to approve the minutes of the General meeting.

4. Business arising from the previous General Meeting minutes

The previous General Meeting of the Society was held in April 2000 to approve the 1999 Annual Report. As there was no other substantive business conducted at that meeting, there was no business arising from it.

5. Address by Prof WEH Blum, IUSS

Prof Blum provided an overview of the recent changes to the IUSS structure and administrative procedures. The main points presented were:

5.1 The IUSS is moving to become the umbrella organization for all members of the affiliated Societies rather than for only those members that specifically elect to join. Hence, it will represent approximately 50,000 members in 143 countries. The IUSS is also now a member of the International Union of Sciences. The invitation for the ASSSI to join under the new arrangements is yet to

be received but negotiations should be initiated over the next year. The cost is expected to be US\$12/person/year levied on a total membership rather than the existing arrangement costing A\$15/year for only those members wishing to join.

5.2 The revised IUSS structure is expected to consist of 4 Divisions which have a range of Commissions reporting to each. However, the new administrative and scientific structure will be formally put into place at the 2002 World Congress. Hence, Prof Blum encouraged all members to attend the Congress to assist in the formulation and initiation of these structures. He also indicated that nominations for positions would be required at least 6 months in advance and hence, suggested that anyone interested in contributing should be thing about their option at this time.

5.3 From 2001 onwards, the IUSS Bulletin will be available via the web and suggested that members would need to consider whether they wish to continue receiving the Bulletin in hardcopy. For those individuals wanting a hardcopy, the subscription cost is expected to be US\$25/year.

5.4 Prof Blum suggested that the Society investigate its linkages with the Australian Academy of Sciences. As the AAS is likely to already be a member of the International Union of Sciences there may be an opportunity to reduce affiliation costs.

6. Annual Report

G Price tabled the Society's annual report and then outlined the Council's major activities over the last year. S Raine then presented the Secretary and Executive Officer reports as detailed in the annual report. D Lester then provided an overview of the Society's financial position. Significant discussion occurred in relation to the implications of the Branches obtaining their own ABN and/or the necessity for them to register for GST. R Bramley suggested that the legal relationship between Council and the Branches needs to be better formalised with a view that the Branch administration/finances could conceivably be conducted by a Central Office even if this requires a further increase in the membership fees. L Abbott indicated that the Council elect were already keen to further investigate these issues in the new year and would welcome input from members. G Price acknowledged and formally thanked the

members of the executive, the executive officer, the Branch committees and their proxies on the Council, for their support and efforts during the last two years. The employer support and contribution in assisting the Society was also acknowledged.

7. Announcement of Council elect

G Price welcomed L Abbott as the 23rd President of the Society and asked that she formally announce the members of the 2001-2002 Council Executive. L Abbott thanked the current Council, executive officer (A Bass) and webmaster (D Yates) for their efforts over the last couple of years and indicated that the next Council expects to have bi-monthly meetings during 2001 starting in late January. She also indicated that the next Council expects to have a focus on encouraging involvement by younger members and would like to work towards unifying activities which recognise the role of indigenous Australians in soil and land issues. The planning for the 2002 ASSSI national conference has begun with the establishment of the organising committee chaired by K Lindbeck. L Abbott then introduced the members of the Council elect: John Field (Vice-President, ACT Branch), Keith Lindbeck (Honorary Treasurer), Judy Eastham (Honorary Secretary) and Daniel Murphy (Honorary Editor).

8. General Business

8.1 R White initiated discussion in relation to current status of the accreditation scheme. In response, L Sullivan was invited to present the most recent report of the Accreditation Subcommittee which included the results of the member satisfaction survey regarding the existing

scheme. G Price indicated that the Council has already moved to set up an Accreditation Planning Committee to develop recommendations for the operation of a professional accreditation scheme under the control of the ASSSI Federal Council. Discussion occurred regarding the development of a new scheme with suggestions from the floor including: (a) sharing the costs of accreditation development and/or operation with other Societies/Associations (eg. NZSSS, APECA), (b) investigating why existing ASSSI members have not been getting accredited and ensuring that any new scheme caters for these concerns, and (c) that ASSSI Branch executives contact their local AIAST Branch counterparts to make sure that they are aware of the CPSS accreditation scheme concerns. There were also a suggestion that the accreditation planning committee could contact other soil science societies (internationally) with a view to both (a) adapting their standards and administration procedures, and/or (b) the development of an "internationally" recognised accreditation scheme. After further discussion, it was suggested that interested individuals could continue their input to the development of an accreditation scheme joining the accreditation planning committee. This committee currently comprises R Loch (Chair), L Sullivan, K Coughlan and L Abbott. Additional nominations accepted from the floor included: R Morse, D McKenzie, C Hignett and R White.

9. Closure

There being no further general business, the President elect declared the meeting closed at 7.15 pm.

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I tend to agree with these observations. Being a person who doesn't read instruction manuals, I went straight into the program and quickly became lost. However, with time I discovered how to use the interface and quickly classified a local soil (from memory). I also found the shortcuts to describe within soil orders, suborders etc, very useful. I was pleased with the feature which allows previous decisions to be changed or assessed, something that isn't seen in too many classification programs

The graphical images are the best feature of the program. There are some pedological features that I have never seen in the field, but after viewing the images I can understand the classification system better. The package contains electronic copies of the Australian Soil Classification and other associated publications, which provides immediate access. I usually waste some time trying to dig out my paper

copies from the Tertiary layer (2 weeks before present) on my desk.

The downside is in the presentation, in some areas images would help, for instance the differences in Vertosol surfaces could be represented as images or diagrams but are presented as text descriptions. The screen design although very useful to the experienced, it is challenging for the novice. The inconsistencies in diagrams, colours and design also give a feeling that the package has been rushed to be finished.

Overall this package is a useful tool for day-to-day work and will be valued as an educational resource for all students of soils. I sincerely hope future upgrades will improve the presentational aspects.

I was also pleased to see one of my photos being presented in the package!

Scott Irvine



Book reviews

This issue, two members review the new CD-ROM, An Interactive Key to the Australian Soil Classification.

CD-ROM: 'An Interactive Key to the Australian Soil Classification'
Published by CSIRO Publishing.

Reviewer: Noel Schoknecht, Unit Manager, Natural Resource Management, AGWEST
Email: nschoknecht@agric.wa.gov.au

The Interactive Key to the Australian Soil Classification (INTKEY) is a CD based product which assists in the classification of soil profiles to the Order, Suborder, Great Group or Subgroup levels within the Australian Soil Classification (ASC). The interactive method makes reliable allocation of soils to classes in the Australian Soil Classification more accessible for individuals without specialist knowledge.

The INTKEY cleverly overcomes one problem with traditional keys - the need to make a decision at each level of the key before the user can move on. It is not actually a key; more like a database. The CD user can simply select the observed soil features, in any order of importance, and consider the range of valid soil classification options presented in response. By viewing the set of images and associated descriptions it is possible to choose the most likely classification. The INTKEY also includes useful options such as allowing for a comparison of differences or similarities between selected soils. The programming behind the key gives a structure for the possible automation of classification for the many thousands of soil profile records across the nation that do not have an Australian Soil Classification.

For experienced pedologists that are familiar with the ASC, it would often be quicker and simpler to use the printed version, especially in the field or where the pedologist has already partly classified the soil based on prior knowledge before recourse to a key. Having said that, the CD key forces rigour in the classification process as it's easy for the pedologist to mentally key something out but make assumptions that might vary from what is actually written.

INTKEY also includes an abridged digital version of the Australian Soil Classification publication. The digital version of the key from printed book is only "hot-linked" to the order level, and therefore it is not possible to key a soil out to the Great group level by using links embedded in the document. This facility would be a worthwhile addition to new versions. The images and descriptions for common soils in Australia which the CD contains complements the printed key and the soon to be published field guide. There is, however, a need to expand the numbers of profile images and distribution diagrams available, which would increase the educational value of the CD. Linking the information back to land use and management would also considerably broaden the potential audience.

The CD provides a wealth of information, and is clearly the product of a considerable amount of work and expertise. It, however, takes a little while to become familiar with the screen displays and the way the CD works, and to be familiar with the terms used in structuring the queries. Provision of a help menu which allows for an alphabetical search on contents would be useful. The tutorial could also be improved, as it is presently only a manual, and does not lead the new user interactively through the ASC key.

The INTKEY is a valuable complement to the range of publications available about the ASC. Its main application will be in the education arena, such as at schools and universities where the concepts and keys of the ASC are being introduced and explained, and to other soils people new to the ASC.

Noel Schoknecht

Reviewer: Scott Irvine, Soils Extension Officer, Qld Dept of Natural Resources
Email: scott.irvine@dnr.qld.gov.au

In reviewing this interactive product, I felt empathy for the authors in their efforts to please everyone from the non-specialist to the fully informed pedologist. To which, they achieve some success.

For this review, I asked a newly appointed staff member (with little soils background), to attempt to classify a soil. I provided a photo, morphological description and some chemical data to aid in this task. After being bemused about the level of text shown in the opening screen, with some help from me, she quickly found out the workings of the program and classified the soil correctly to the great soil group level. However, she found some of the pedological descriptions difficult to understand, but acknowledged that the help screens explained concepts easier than the field manual would. The graphical content was of great help.

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Federal Council minutes

The 196th ASSSI Federal Council Meeting was held on the 3rd December 2000 in the Stewart Building, Lincoln University, New Zealand.

1. Opening

The President opened the meeting at 12.40 pm by welcoming all present including the Branch representatives.

2. Attendance

Present: G Price, L Abbott, S Raine, D Lester, J White, K Hey (Qld), T Weatherly (Vic), L Sullivan (NSW), R Fitzpatrick (SA, for items 1-8), J Standley (Riv proxy, for items 1-8), T Biswas (Riv, for items 9 onwards) R Gilkes (ex officio as Chairman, 2010 IUSS World Congress Steering Committee), J Field (ACT, for items 9.3 onwards), K Lindbeck (Treasurer elect), A Bass (Exec Officer, on telephone for item 5)

Apologies: C Ahern (ACT proxy), A Rate (WA)

3. Minutes of the 195th Meeting

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

4. Business arising from minutes

4.1 Re 10.6: The AJSR discount will only be available to ASSSI members for the hardcopy version.

4.2 Re 8.2: Prescott Medal was presented to M Mulcahy by R Fitzpatrick.

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 Discussions are continuing with the Executive Officer regarding the central office contract renewal. Council received legal opinion on suggested changes and is now awaiting a response from A Bass. In view of the possibility of the existing contract expiring prior to renegotiations being finalised, G Price moved that the existing contractual arrangements for the Central Office function continue on a temporary basis until a new contract is finalised. Seconded L Sullivan. Motion carried.

5.2 The CPSS Soil Science Assessment Panel and Soil Science Standards Committee have both held their first meetings and minutes of these meetings were tabled. G Price indicated that only 1 application for CPSS has been submitted and approved this year.

5.3 A meeting had been held with a representative of the Australian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy in relation to the operation and management of their professional accreditation scheme.

5.4 Recommendations for chairpersons for 18 sessions at the National Conference and representatives for the conference award judging panels have been finalised.

5.5 Confirmed the next General Meeting of the Society would occur on the 4th December 2000 as previously advertised.

6. Executive Officer's report

The EO's report was presented as part of the Annual Report and spoken to by S Raine. Main issues were:

6.1 Current membership of 837 of which 680 are financial.

6.2 Applications for membership were received from 16 people during the last period. S Raine moved that they be admitted to the Society, seconded J Standley. Motion carried.

6.3 The Society's first business activity statement has taken much longer to prepare than anticipated. However, this work is now completed and processes have been developed which should make this statement and the Society's audited statements much easier to prepare in future.

7. Secretary's Report

7.1 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 White. Motion carried.

8. Treasurer's report

D Lester spoke to a prepared report on the income and expenditure for the previous period. Main items were:

8.1 The Society's first GST payment associated with the BAS was \$1664.

8.2 The change to the Quickbooks accounting software is expected to simplify the financial reporting of the Society and potentially reduce annual audit charges.

8.3 The Society has continued to trade at a deficit during the last period but still has approximately \$70000 in reserves.

8.4 There is a need for the Branches to invoice the Council for annual membership subscriptions. However, it is necessary for each Branch to obtain an individual ABN to enable payment to occur without incurring the withholding tax. D Lester moved acceptance of the report and requested endorsement of payments made on behalf of the Society during the last period. Seconded K Hey. Motion carried.

9. Editor's Report

9.1 J White confirmed that she would prepare the next issue of Profile as well as the current Constitution and membership list for distribution with Profile.

9.2 J White reported that only a small number of members had so far taken up the offer to receive an electronic copy of Profile. L Abbott indicated that the Council elect will need to further investigate this option as the costs associated with the provision of Profile are continuing to escalate.

9.3 J White confirmed that the new Society website was located at www.asssi.asn.au R Fitzpatrick moved that Council congratulate J White for the terrific job that she has done over the last two years in producing Profile, seconded S Raine. Motion carried by acclamation.

10. General Business

10.1 G Price initiated discussion on the relevance of the proxy system for Council given the ability for teleconferencing. Several issues were raised including the existing ability for Presidents to "phone in" as well as the ability to include more people in the workings of the Council and subcommittees through the proxy system. After discussion, it was resolved that this issue should be discussed further by the Council elect.

10.2 L Abbott reported that the Student Development Subcommittee has recently collated all of the activities and benefits currently being provided by Branches and Council for student members. Suggestions were also made for additional activities which could promote student involvement with the Society. The sub-committee will continue into the term of the Council elect.

10.3 L Sullivan tabled the final report from the Accreditation Subcommittee including the results of the member survey on satisfaction with the existing scheme. After discussion of the options, L Sullivan moved that the Council establish an Accreditation Planning Sub-committee to develop recommendations for the operation of a professional accreditation scheme under the control of the ASSSI Federal Council. Seconded K Hey. Motion carried. Members appointed to the Sub-committee were R Loch (Chair), L Sullivan, K Coughlan, and L Abbott with other

members to be co-opted as appropriate.

10.4 J White to request that other relevant Societies and associations provide links to the ASSSI website.

10.5 G Price tabled the last minutes of the National Conference Organising committee and indicated that the Conference appeared to be on track financially and administratively and that there were no outstanding items requiring Council attention.

10.6 For noting, the 17th World Congress will be held on the 14-21 August 2002 and submission of abstracts will be required by the 30th April 2001. The 18th World Congress will be held in July 2006 in Philadelphia, USA.

10.7 R Gilkes reported on the Steering Committee actions and current planning associated with hosting the 19th World Congress.

10.8 L Abbott formally announced the members of the Council elect: J Field (Vice-President elect - ACT Branch), J Eastham (Honorary Secretary), K Lindbeck (Honorary Treasurer) and D Murphy (Honorary Editor).

11. Closure

The President declared the meeting closed at 4.45 pm. The first meeting of the next Council's term will be held at the University of Western Australia starting at 1pm on Thursday 25th January.

ASSSI Student Activities

The Student Development Sub-committee is compiling a list of student activities undertaken within ASSSI. Some branch initiatives include:

- * scholarships to attend national conference
- * student-employer days or evenings
- * undergraduate awards for soil science essays
- * awards to school projects on soil science
- * bursaries for school science competitions
- * scholarships to top undergraduate soil science students
- * awards for oral presentations of student research projects
- * social events for postgraduate students
- * student discounts on membership
- * student position on branch executive
- * postgraduate representative on committees at branch level
- * thesis awards

For more information, or to add to this list contact Federal President Lyn Abbott.



Conferences

4-6 March 2001
The International Fertiliser Society Symposium: Fertilisers and Resource Management for Food Security, Quality and the Environment, Lisbon
secretary@fertiliser-society.org
fax +44 1904492700

12-16 March 2001
5th International Symposium on Plant-soil Interactions at low pH, Kwazulu-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

26-28 March 2001
International Conference on Environmental Flows, Dundee, Scotland
Are there key scales for solute and pollutant transport?
tel: +44 1382 568 574
fax +44 1382 562 426
www.scri.sari.ac.uk/assoc/envflows

April 2001
ASSI Qld Branch Field Trip - Sunshine Coast Soils and Geology
tel (07) 3896 9792
doug.smith@dnr.qld.gov.au

7-11 May 2001
4th International Conference on Environmental Geochemistry in the Tropics, Townsville, Queensland
andrew.noble@tvf.ciw.csiro.au
tel 07 4753 8550
fax 07 4753 8600

3-6 July 2001
ASSI Riverina Branch Conference - Use of EM Technology in Agricultural Resource Management, Yanco
tel (02) 6953 378
geoff.beecher@agric.nsw.gov.au

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
http://icobte.crlc.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.17wcss.ku.ac.th

July 2003
International Soil Tillage Research Organisation, Queensland
tel (07) 5460 1354
j.tullberg@mailbox.uq.edu.au

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

Soils on the Web

Check out these soils related websites next time you are surfing the net:

Association of Women Soil Scientists
awss.homestead.com

Glossary of Soil Science Terms (including a dictionary for the MS Word spellchecker)
www.soils.org/sssagloss/

Soils of the Australian Alps (part of an Australian Alps Education Kit)
www.anca.gov.au/protecte/alps/soils.htm

WWW Virtual Library - Soils and Substrates
www.meta.fi/info.vlib/soils

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