



**PROFILE - THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE
AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY OF SOIL SCIENCE INC**

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**PROFILE IS
AVAILABLE ON THE
ASSSI WEBSITE**

Profile

AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY OF SOIL SCIENCE INC.

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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 Linda Bennison, ASSSI executive officer on telephone 03 5974 1758, facimile 03 5974 1141, email asssi@bigpond.net.au

ASSSI Website

<http://www.asssi.asn.au>

PROFILE

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2002 Profile Deadlines

15 March, 15 June, 15 September, 15 December

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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From the President - Lyn Abbott

First, I would like to thank all the Australian participants at the 17th World Congress of Soil Science and especially those who assisted with the ASSSI stand throughout the meeting in Bangkok. The initial intention of the stand was to promote the bid for the 19th WCSS in Brisbane. However, it became a popular meeting place for Australians and others. Many thanks to Katherine Snars who coordinated this effort and for ensuring it had suitable material and a roster of people to talk to conference attendees.

Second, I congratulate the 19th WCSS Conference Bid Organizing Committee for their success in achieving support for the congress in Brisbane in 2010. It is a great honour for ASSSI to be chosen for this important international responsibility.

Third, the IUSS Council meetings discussed many issues of relevance to ASSSI during the Congress in Bangkok. From 2003 onwards, ASSSI will be a member of IUSS rather than individual members.

The Australian Journal of Soil Research has been accepted as a Cooperating Journal of IUSS. Two Australians have been appointed to Committees of IUSS Council:

David Smiles (Committee on Budget and Finance)

Lyn Abbott (Committee on Prizes and Awards).

Several Australians have been appointed to IUSS Officer Positions in Divisions and Commissions:

Vadakattu GUPTA - Chairperson Commission 2.3 [Soil Biology]

Rob FITZPATRICK - Chairperson Commission 2.4 [Soil Mineralogy]

Ravi NAIDU - Chairperson Commission 3.5 [Soil Degradation Control, Remediation, and Reclamation]

Pam HAZELTON - Vice-Chairperson Commission 4.4 [Soil Education and Public Awareness]

Congratulations to these members of ASSSI.

Several positions (mainly Secretary) for Commissions were still vacant at the end of the Congress.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the long-standing commitment to IUSS made by Professor Dr. Winfried E.H. Blum (outgoing Secretary-General of IUSS) and Dr J. Hans V. van Baren (Deputy Secretary-General of IUSS). Congratulations to Professor Stephen Nortcliff, new Secretary-General of IUSS and Dr Alfred Hartemink, new Deputy Secretary-General of IUSS. Stephen Nortcliff is from Reading University, UK and Alfred Hartemink is from ISRIC Wageningen, The Netherlands.



From the Editor - Rachel Poulter

Profile has been set up without columns (in the main) so that it is easier to read on a computer. This was done at the request of members. Please continue to send in comments that will assist us in improving the quality of Profile. This issue has is being circulated as a PDF file to members. If you have difficulty in viewing it please let us know. We have received some information from the Victorian Branch field excursions to include in the December issue. Please submit information at any time, especially photos (contact the editor for details on how to send these), thesis summaries and other information of general interest to members. Deadline for information for next Profile is 15 December.



ASSSI Awards

An important part of the ASSSI program is the award of medals for distinction. The 2001 Prescott Medal was awarded to Dr Brent Clothier at an ASSSI function held at the University of Melbourne in July. The award was presented by ASSSI President, Lyn Abbott. The function was sponsored by CSIRO Publishing and the Victorian Branch of ASSSI.



Photo: ASSSI President, Lyn Abbott, presenting the Prescott Medal to Dr Brent Clothier



Photo: Dr Ken Lee, recipient of ASSSI Life Membership with SA President, Dr Cameron Grant and Lyn Abbott in Adelaide (July 2002)
[See Page 26]



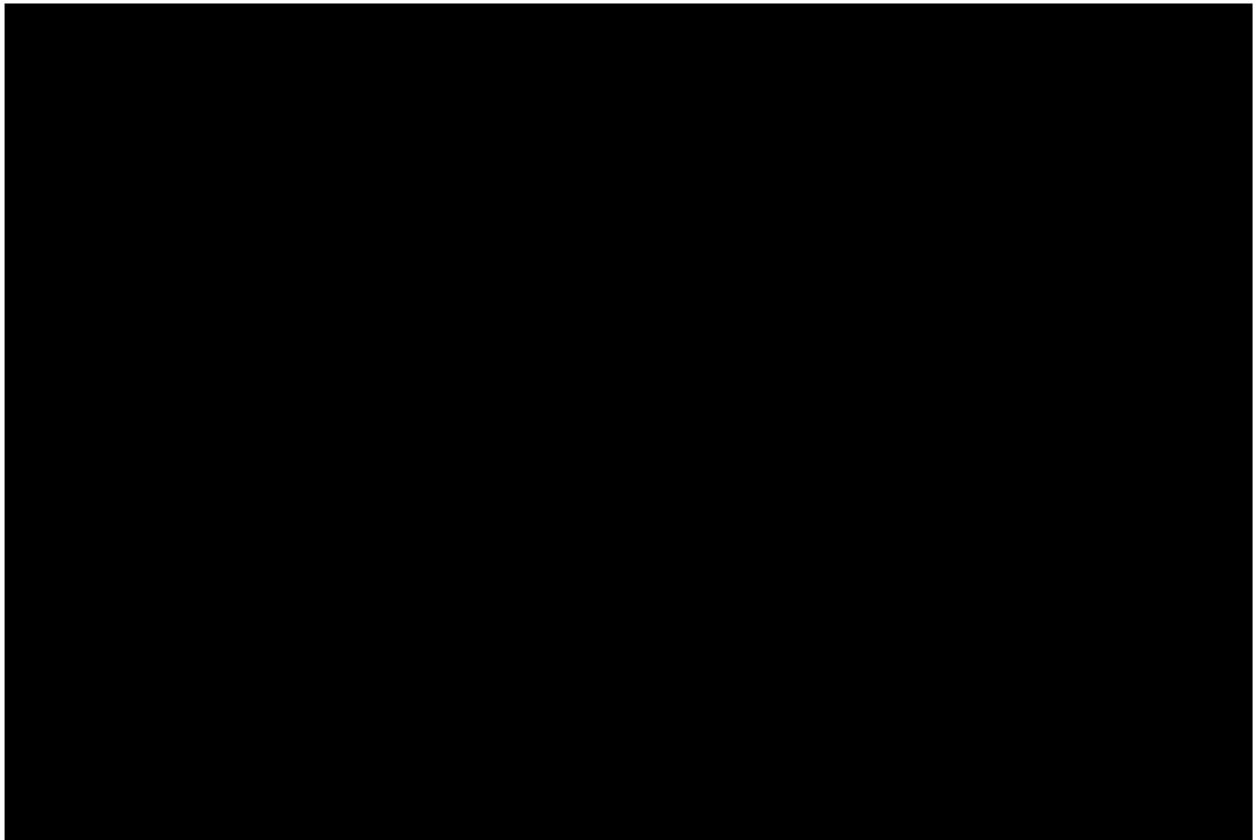
URGENT NOTICE

ELECTION OF NEXT ASSSI FEDERAL EXECUTIVE

The By-Laws of ASSSI Constitution have been amended to allow a national election of Federal Executive. *The recent call for nominations of ASSSI President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer was not heard by members. Therefore we have extended the deadline.* **Submissions must be signed by two financial members and must be received by Friday 6th December.**

Send nominations and a brief statement by the nominee to:

Linda Bennison
ASSSI Executive Officer
PO Box 525 Mornington, Victoria, 3931



ASSSI Strategic Plan

2002 - 2006

“ASSSI promotes the field of soil science and its important relationship with wise management of the soil resource throughout Australia.”

website:<http://www.asssi.asn.au>

What is ASSSI? 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 currently comprises a Federal Council and seven Branches (Qld, NSW, Riverina, ACT, Vic, SA and WA). Liability of members is limited. Federal Council consists of: Federal Executive: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer Branch Presidents, Newsletter Editor. An Executive Officer is employed by ASSSI to be responsible for dealing with membership issues, promotional material and administration of CPSS.

Accreditation for soil scientists is available: Certified Professional Soil Scientists (CPSS)

What does ASSSI do?

- Promotes soil science to the wider community as essential for natural resource management and production.
- Sets professional standards related to soil science.
- Provides a forum for wide debate of soil science issues.
- Provides opportunities for professional development in soil science.
- Coordinates a national focus on issues related to soil, its use and its management
- Provides leadership opportunities for members, including junior soil scientists
- Provides international links (IUSS) through participation in international meetings and initiatives related to research on soil, policy development and implementation
- Participates in policy development and debate related to soils in all environments in Australia
- Takes a leadership role in discussion on education and training related to soil
- Holds conferences (joint with NZ, national and local)
- Supports the bid for IUSS Conference in 2010
- Initiates seminars, workshops, field days, field trips
- Disseminates information - books, articles, affiliation with the Australian Journal of Soil Research

Enduring Outputs

Nationally recognised accreditation for practicing soil scientists
High profile of soil science in the community
High profile of soil science in environmental decision-making processes
High quality educational opportunities and support for students
Benchmarking with related organizations
Effective communication among members
Effective communication with stakeholders
Effective communication within the community
International links
Affiliation with other related organizations

Continued on Page 7

Areas of strategic initiatives related to 6 key ASSSI objectives

1.To support initiatives which enhance the profile of soil science in Australia

- Accreditation of Soil Scientists (CPSS)
- Educational materials
- Public presentations
- Discussion with key government and industry sectors

2.To enhance expertise in soil science

- Development opportunities for junior soil scientists
- Seminars, workshops, training, field trips

3.To recognise excellence in soil science

- Medals for excellence
- Student prizes and travel awards

4.To provide a forum for discussion

- Website, email, newsletter, seminars, conferences, workshops

5.To increase government and community awareness of soil science

- Media updates
- Workshops

COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Attention to the ASSSI Strategic Plan is urgently required. I request that all members consider how they might specifically participate in initiating or contributing to activities related to the ASSSI Strategic Plan. With a great diversity of interests among members, it should be possible for each member to identify a particular activity that they might concentrate on for the next year or so. Please let your Branch Presidents know of your interest. **A strong and active ASSSI depends on participation by members.**

The Leeper Memorial Lecture for 2002 will be presented by

Dr John Williams, CSIRO

15 November 2002 at the University of Melbourne.

All welcome - SEE FULL INFORMATION ON PAGE 17



Remember to
pay your
ASSSI
subscription

ASSSI NATIONAL CONFERENCE

PERTH DECEMBER 2002

FUTURE SOILS CONFERENCE.....READY TO GO

Final arrangements are in place for the biennial ASSSI National Soils Conference from 2-6th December 2002. The Conference will be held on the campus of The University of Western Australia in Perth. The theme of the Conference is - "Managing Soil Resources to Ensure Access to Markets for Future Generations".

The Conference will commence at 5.00 pm on Sunday afternoon with a Welcome Reception for all registrants and their partner at University House in the grounds of UWA.

The Official Welcome to the conference will be given by Professor Deryck Schreuder, Vice-Chancellor of the University and the Conference will probably be opened by the State Minister for Agriculture, the Hon. Kim Chance, MLA. This is yet to be confirmed.

Internationally renowned speakers will present Keynote Addresses at the beginning of each of the four days that papers and posters are presented. These speakers are:

- Dr Brian Fisher, ABARE
- Associate Professor Lyn Abbott, UWA and President of ASSSI
- Dr Chris Moran, CSIRO
- Professor Alan Robson, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, UWA
- Dr Alan Palmer, Massey university, NZ and President NZSS
- Professor Lijbert Brussaard, Wageningen University, The Netherlands.

Local and overseas participants will present over 100 oral papers and 30 posters during the Conference.

One day field trips are planned during the middle of the Conference. These will incorporate mining, environmental and agricultural themes during the trips and will conclude at a vineyard for a BBQ before returning to Perth.

The Conference Dinner will be held at the Fremantle Sailing Club on Monday night. This will be an informal affair and will include presentations of ASSSI medals.

At the conclusion of proceedings on Tuesday 3rd, December, ASSSI will be holding a General Meeting. All ASSSI members and interested attendees are encouraged to attend that meeting.

Conference participants will also have the opportunity to attend a public forum on soils on Thursday evening, 5th December. The purpose is to promote the IUSS Proposal that there be a World Day for Soils. More details on this will be available at the Conference, but please put it in your diary.

All participants are requested to make their own travel and accommodation arrangements. Accommodation is available on campus at St Georges College. This can be booked through the Conference web page. Numerous hotel accommodation is available in Perth, only 3 km from the University and well serviced by public transport.

Please note that on-line registration is also available on the Conference web page:
www.agric.uwa.edu.au/soils/futuress/index.html

Keith Lindbeck,
Chair,
2002 Conference Organising Committee

IUSS

NEWSLETTER ON THE HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY AND SOCIOLOGY OF SOIL SCIENCE

The newsletter on the History, Philosophy and Sociology of Soil Science of the International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS) and of the similarly-named Council of the Soil Science Society of America (SSSA) is available as a PDF file. We hope it will be of interest. The Newsletter is prepared by Dan Yaalon and Douglas Helms. It can be downloaded from the IUSS web site <http://www.iuss.org/NewsletterCHP/htm> or www.iuss.org and then Newsletter No.10.

Dan Yaalon

Daily or Hourly Tracking of Water Use



- 1.**  Buried in soil. ECHO Probe. High resolution soil moisture sensor allows daily or hourly tracking of water use.
- 2.**  Storing data in the field. The EmSR Logger: Stores 3400 scans. Each scan includes date, time and 5 water content measurements.
- 3.**  Retrieving data where you need it. Rm1 Radio Receiver transfers data up to 2km line-of-sight.
- 4.**  Attaches via RS232 serial cable.



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**SEND
INFORMATION
FOR NEXT
PROFILE BY
15th DECEMBER
2002**

**to
organic@agric.uwa.edu.au**

**Include news, thesis
abstracts, ideas, information,
conferences etc.**

RECOGNITION FOR PROFESSIONAL SOIL SCIENTISTS

In 2002, one hundred and four scientists paid for accreditation under the Certified Professional Soil Scientist scheme being administered by the Australian Society of Soil Science Inc. To achieve 2002 accreditation, scientists need to have forwarded a signed record of the professional development undertaken in the previous year. A minimum of 50 hours is required and hours in excess of 50 can be carried over to the following year. An accreditation committee has been assessing the statements of CPE hours during 2002.

Several changes will be made to the scheme in 2003. All members will be provided with a handbook outlining how the scheme will operate. The record of professional development will be classified into the core capabilities and will be strongly focused on soil activities.

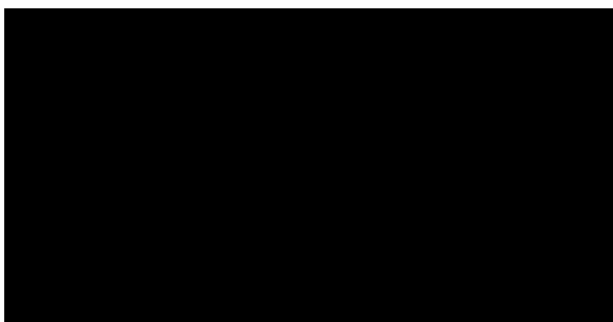
We have been unable to gain independent access for ASSSI members to the AIAST professional indemnity insurance scheme. Currently you must be a member of AIAST to access the insurance. However negotiations are underway with another insurance broker who has been able to assist two of our members with reasonable quotes. It is anticipated that we will have this in place when the subscription renewals are forwarded later this year.

If you have any queries please contact the ASSSI office on 03 5974 1758 or asssi@bigpond.net.au .

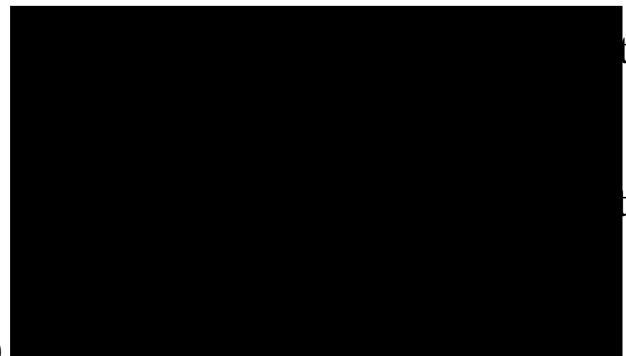


Allan Jones (left), Executive Director of AIAST, met with ASSSI President, Lyn Abbott in Melbourne prior to the first CPSS Committee Meeting to discuss the transfer of responsibility for management of CPSS to ASSSI. The Chair of the CPSS Committee is Professor Robert White.

Experiments with Profile.... This year we have changed the method for distributing the ASSSI Newsletter, Profile - the choice at the time of ASSSI Subscription was to have a printed version mailed or an electronic version available. Subsequently, we have had some difficulty in forwarding PDF files to some members. The cheapest option is to send a simple email with the ASSSI website address where Profile is loaded and from where it can be downloaded. Profile is a large file, even when converted to PDF, so the website option would be preferable. However, we will continue to explore efficient and member-friendly methods of distribution - including a choice of method of distribution. Thank you for your patience during the transition period.



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Discussion paper: National PhD Awards for ASSSI

The following recommendations are based on inspection of the regulations for the NZSSS and SSSA PhD awards (appended below). The Canadian SSS does not appear to offer a PhD award, and the BSSS website has been problematic for some time.

1. There should be a single, annual National award for a PhD in Soil Science granted by an Australian university
2. The ASSSI should name the Award after a distinguished soil scientist but, as this may possibly be a contentious issue, the Award should initially be called the “ASSSI PhD Award” until Federal Council approves a suitable name.
3. There should be a monetary component to the Award (*ca.* \$500 AUD) as well as a high-quality certificate.
4. The award in any calendar year shall be for degrees awarded (not necessarily conferred) in the previous calendar year.
5. University Departments or Groupings may select a single PhD thesis for consideration in each year. This selection process is at the discretion of the Departments or Groupings themselves.
6. An Award committee consisting of three financial or retired (not student) members of ASSSI (preferably not all from Universities) shall decide the thesis which is to receive the Award. This committee will also have the final word on whether any thesis is eligible by virtue of its subject material.
7. The Award committee will select a short list from thesis abstracts, and the final decision will be made following consideration of the entire thesis.
8. The ASSSI is not obliged to present an Award in any calendar year if it deems that nominated PhD theses are of insufficient quality.
9. All short-listed theses (including the eventual winner) will receive a certificate of commendation, and the ASSSI will prepare and distribute press releases based on the findings of the thesis and interviews of the authors.
10. The National award is not intended to supplant any awards made independently by state branches of the ASSSI.

Andrew Rate, President WA Branch

Women in Soil Science - Eunice Colby

Eunice Colby BSc,Dip.Sec.Ed. Eunice Colby was the first woman to study soil science at the University of Adelaide. She matriculated at Glossop High School in South Australia's Riverland where her parents had a fruit block at Winkie near Berri. In 1945 while a trainee teacher at Adelaide Teachers College she started a science degree. Not wanting to do organic chemistry she decided to study statistics, geology and soil science at the Waite Institute with Agriculture students. Two other science contemporaries also chose to study soil science—the late Dr E J (Ted) Coaldrake and the late Dr Lance May, both subsequently distinguished scientists. While studying for her BSc, Eunice tutored biology students at night. After graduating in 1948 she began teaching matriculation botany at Adelaide High School in 1949. She taught there for six years. Appointments followed at Clare High School in the mid north and at Findon and Seacombe High Schools in the metropolitan area. She was vice-principal at the latter in 1966/67. In 1968 she was appointed Dean of Students at Wattle Park Teachers college and subsequently to a similar position at Murray Park College of Advanced Education which took over the role of Wattle Park. It is now the Magill campus of the University of South Australia. Ill health forced Eunice into early retirement in 1980 and she now lives quietly at “Resthaven” Village at Leabrook in Adelaide's leafy eastern suburbs where I met her while visiting my mother.

Bill Matheson CPSS Past President SA Branch.

Report on Student Conference Support, Victorian Branch

Alice Melland

International Phosphorus Transfer Workshop and Study Tour, Aug-Sep 2001, Devon, UK

Movement of phosphorus from diffuse sources such as agriculture to waterways is a worldwide phenomena that has been linked to excessive growth of nuisance algae. I have been investigating the potential risk for increased P losses in runoff from increased fertiliser and grazing pressures in the sheep industry of south-west Victoria, since 1998 as part of my PhD research. In August of last year, I had the opportunity to attend a workshop in Devon, UK to further explore this very issue. A travel grant from the ASSSI Vic Branch contributed towards this trip. The conference was titled 'The International Phosphorus Transfer Workshop' and attracted over 150 participants mainly from USA, Europe, New Zealand and a large contingent from Australia. As well as presenting a paper at the workshop, I visited a research group in Pennsylvania, USA as well as the Institute for Grasslands and Environmental Research in Devon, the Macaulay Institute for soil and tillage research in Aberdeen, the Dept. Agriculture and Rural Development in Belfast and researchers from TEAGASC, Ireland (whose institute is located in the grounds of the early 19th century Johnstown Castle, which has magnificent gardens and three lakes). All the researchers are involved in investigating P movement from pastures and crops. Much of the research in the UK is in response to the EU Water Framework Directive, which stipulates for handsome improvements in water quality to be achieved by 2015.

Throughout the conference and discussions it was clear that extreme storm events had a huge impact on overall P losses but that small, insidious losses were also important. It is these smaller losses that are harder to reduce through management. Erosion problems can often be managed by maintaining adequate groundcover, installing engineered structures, revegetating gullies and reducing stock access to streams. These measures can have a large positive influence on keeping soil and nutrients on-farm. Once these large advances have been made, however, there are environments where it is increasingly difficult to reduce nutrient losses further. The south-west of Victoria appears to be one of these areas and perhaps the most similar environment I encountered overseas was around Aberdeen in Scotland. Here the grazing pressures are often far less than those typical in the high rainfall areas of southern Australia and yet Salmon populations in streams (crystal clear by Australian standards!) are still in jeopardy from reduced water quality.

In contrast to Australia, however, there were large areas in both the USA and UK where an overall P surplus in soils has developed. These soils have ample P to supply optimal levels to crops, however applications of both inorganic and organic P are still being applied by many farmers. These excess P applications are largely due to the traditional practice of applying fertiliser to satisfy nitrogen requirements without due consideration of the excess P being supplied, as well the need to dispose of pig and poultry manure near where it produced, regardless of whether the added nutrients are required by the crop.

Of perhaps all the places I visited, Australia appeared to have the greatest potential for improving nutrient management capabilities and awareness of land managers through our government extension and community based Landcare networks. Very few of the countries represented at the conference had such progressive and interactive networks and this made the flow of information from research to application even

Continued Page 13

NEWS FROM NSW BRANCH OF ASSSI

Seminar on 2 August 2002 at NSW Department of Land & Water Conservation, Windsor. Prof Stuart Hill, University of Western Sydney, gave a presentation. There were about 15 non-members and members present.

Field Trip: Blue Mountains. 19-20 September 2002. The trip was organised by Greg Chapman, Vice President ASSSI NSW. There were many presenters, and a wide variety of soil interests, issues and sites were covered in the two days. About 40 people participated, representing a wide variety of vocational interests. ASSSI was strongly promoted. Several people purchased copies of the DAMOS (Describing Analysing and Managing Our Soil) book. It was an excellent time for technical and social interchange. A fuller report with photographs will be available shortly.

WCSS, Thailand:

Student Sponsorship. The Branch sponsored Nelly Blair, a Post-Graduate student at the University of New England. This was very worthwhile from Nelly's point of view. Her report is attached - it will be published in the next issue of Cornstalk Media, and it is available for inclusion in Profile, with one or two photos, if needed by the Editor.

The "Predicting Soil Distribution" poster has been published by the NSW Department of Land and Water Conservation in collaboration with ASSSI. A draft international version of the poster was displayed at the ASSSI Trade Booth at the WCSS. A background poster by the same authors was given the Best Poster Award for its particular Symposium. More details are included in the attached report, which is available for inclusion in Profile.

Two more seminars and a field trip are scheduled before the end of 2002.

Graeme Tupper, President, ASSSI NSW Branch

NEW BOOK: CSIRO PUBLISHING

Environmental Mechanics: Water, Mass and Energy Transfer
in the Biosphere.

<http://www.publish.csiro.au/books/>

Alice Melland Travel Report Continued from Page 12

more challenging than in our environment. Certainly the main consensus which developed from the conference was the need for multidisciplinary research so that the vulnerability and utility of waterways is assessed in conjunction with the potential for varying landuses to contribute P loads as well as the necessity for methods to reduce P losses to be communicated well to those who have the power to make a difference – in our case, the managers of our intensive and extensive rural industries.

I would also like to acknowledge the financial contributions to my trip from ASSSI Vic Branch, Howard and Farrer Memorial Trusts, Nancy Millis Research Scholarship Travel Grant and WestVic Dairy.

Charles G Stephens (1907 - 2002)

– his life with soils

Charles “Steve” Stephens was born in Launceston, Tasmania, in 1907. His family had been early settlers in the Westbury-Deloraine district. After primary education in Hobart and Launceston, and a high school education in Launceston, he trained as a teacher, and completed a degree in science at the University of Tasmania. He excelled in chemistry. In 1928, he was approached by CSIR to undertake a post-graduate research Masters studentship on the chemical and physical properties of Tasmanian soils. In April 1929 he completed a month’s training on particle size, pH and sticky point measurements with CS Piper and RJ Best at CSIR Soils Division at the Waite Institute. He also had an opportunity to spend a day in the field at Tailem Bend in the Murray swamps on soil survey with JK Taylor and TJ Marshall. This was his introduction to pedology and soil classification and proved an important influence as he embarked on his career in soil science.

Back in Tasmania he was based at the university, completing work on soil colloids and sampling and analysing Tasmanian soils. Although not supposed to be involved in survey, he completed a soil survey of apple-growing soils near Huonville. This interest was noted by JA Prescott and in 1930 he returned to Adelaide for training with Taylor and Marshall at Renmark, Barmera, and Kuitpo. On returning to Tasmania he married Elizabeth Gumley before completing a soil survey of King Island aimed at assisting with the problem of coast disease. On return to Hobart, he became involved in investigations of forest soils, particularly plantations growing *Pinus radiata*. The discovery of relationships of tree yield with soil pH and other nutritional factors had a great impact on forestry operations and came to the notice of Sir David Rivett, then CEO of CSIR. His work had been regarded as of national importance and he was released from his employment bond with the Tasmanian Education Department. He produced several works with Prescott, Taylor and Piper that outlined the distribution of Tasmanian soils, their commonly acidic nature, the ‘krasnozems’ inland from Burnie and a study of the apple-growing soils as well as a number of minor surveys in the North-East, North-West, Flinders Island and Midlands.

In 1937, he spent some time as a team leader in the South-East of South Australia completing a soil survey of forest soils at Mt Burr training R Crocker and B Butler and others in field survey. With his leadership qualities recognised, the Stephens family moved to Adelaide in 1938. He began work in County Victoria that aimed to help mitigate soil erosion. In 1941, Steve was appointed head of the Soil Survey and Pedology Section. Following Pearl Harbour, many Soils Division staff became engaged in war-related work, mainly related to airport runway construction and dust control, army gardens and irrigation water. He travelled extensively across Australia, much of it by air, and the value of aerial photography became apparent – he collected about 6,000 colour slides.

Following the war, he was engaged in developing land survey for soldier settlement across Australia. At this time he became involved in assisting a private radiata pine plantation company overcome nutritional problems in the Mt Gambier area. His assistance with trial work and objective measurement proved very beneficial to the company and he was bombarded with enticements to leave CSIR/CSIRO to join the company, offers which he was to reject until 1967 due to his strong conviction to the value of soil research in CSIRO. He made early field trips to the Burdekin that resulted in G Hubble and others working on the establishment of irrigation. Back in South Australia established the Northern Marginal Lands study employing a newly recruited Dick Blackburn and ventured into the arid lands with RW Jessup. It was during these field experiences that his interest in silcretes and laterites strengthened.

In 1951 he completed field expeditions with A Stewart in the Northern Territory and Western Queensland. In 1953 he completed a soil survey of Norfolk Island, largely aimed at controlling erosion due to deforestation, but among other outcomes, recommending tourism as an economic base for the island. The first edition of “The Manual of Australian Soils” was published in 1953, using many of his slides of soil profiles. At about the same time he began field work in arid Australia to further his studies of silcrete and laterite.

He travelled extensively, his first trip being nine months in the USA and Europe in 1948 and included attendance at several World Congresses of Soil Science. His observations of soils on most continents and comparisons with Australian soils built his interest in classification and established links with prominent soil scientists world-wide. In 1952 he led a team that produced “Soil Surveys for Land Development” for FAO and was involved with the establishment of the FAO World Soils Map in the early 1960s. Opportunities to visit the classical laterite sites in India also resulted in publishing more observations. In 1967, he retired from CSIRO and took up his position with Southern Australia Perpetual Forests Limited as a company director and later with the management team. He was able to continue his interest in forest nutrition, establish experiments and collaborated with K Cellier and M Raupach of CSIRO.

Continued Page 15

CG Stephens Continued

Perhaps aided by his early teacher training, he was a good communicator and, apart from scientific communication, was a frequent lecturer and educator to returned soldiers, farmers, bankers, school children, adult education and so on. He belonged to many societies and groups interested in science. As well as some small and informal groups, he was a member and Fellow of the RACI, a foundation member and Fellow of AIAST, the first recipient of the Prescott Medal and an honorary member of the ASSS; and a life member of the Royal Zoological Society of South Australia. He was frequently seen at SA Branch meeting of ASSS until of advanced age.

As a soil scientist, CG Stephens played a distinguished role in the establishment and health state of soil survey, classification and pedology in Australia. His participation in many surveys in all states means that he played a significant part in the development of regional Australia. His influence extended across the world to places such as the Congo and Borneo. He was a quietly spoken gentleman, imposingly tall, and a true scientist who remained a teacher and was always on hand with patient and helpful advice.

Richard Merry
CSIRO Land and Water

Acknowledgements:

Much of this material is summarised from CG Stephens' autobiographical work "Yours to a Cinder" completed in 1990, other material in the CSIRO library at Urrbrae, and my own interactions with him in the 1970s concerning the apple-growing soils of Tasmania.



The National Centre for Groundwater Management (NCGM) at UTS

**is recognised by the Federal Government through LWRRDC as a National
Centre for Training, Research and Consultancy in Groundwater and
Environmental Applications.**

A comprehensive range of HECS-based postgraduate programs is currently offered:

- Master of Engineering and Master of Science -(Coursework - full or part-time)
- Graduate Diplomas (Engineering or Science -(full or part-time)
- Master of Engineering and Master of Science -(Research - full or part-time)
- PhD (Full or part-time) • Graduate Course (15 weeks)

Areas of study in the coursework subjects include:

Groundwater Contaminant Transport Modelling; Quality and Quantity Optimisation Strategies for Water Resource Development; Waste Management and Groundwater; Contaminated Land Evaluation and Rehabilitation; Bore Fouling and Maintenance; Practical Areas of Hydrogeology
Land and Groundwater Salinity;

Courses are flexible, with options in full-time (block mode), part-time (block mode), and by distance mode.

For information and applications contact

Professor Michael J Knight, Director, National Centre for Groundwater Management, UTS,
PO Box 123, Broadway NSW 2007 Australia.

02 9514 1984 Fax: **02 9514 1985**

Email: groundwater.management@uts.edu.au

Website: <http://groundwater.ncgm.uts.edu.au/ncgm/>

UTS CRICOS Provider Code 00099F

HONORARY DOCTORATE awarded to Dr Keith Norrish

Dr Keith Norrish was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Science by The University of Western Australia on the 17th September, 2002. Keith graduated from UWA with BSc and MSc degrees in physics, then subsequently obtained a PhD in the UK for his research on clay mineralogy carried out at Rothamsted Experimental Station, Keith has received many scientific and national awards in recognition of his outstanding research achievements in the CSIRO Division of Soils. He developed the use of XRF to provide highly accurate analyses of soils, rocks and plant materials. He has also made major contributions to our understanding of soil mineralogy, particularly the nature of phosphate, clay and iron minerals.

Dr Norrish is pictured with Professor Deryck Schreuder, Vice Chancellor of UWA and Professor Bob Gilkes who worked with Keith at CSIRO in 1969.



ASSAY: A Newsletter about Acid Sulphate Soils

Editor: Heather Shearer
Web address: <http://agric.nsw.gov.au/reader/8632>
email: heather.shearer@agric.nsw.gov.au

THE EMAIL ADDRESS
FOR ASSI
asssi@bigpond.net.au

From the Victorian Branch

The Australian Society of Soil Science Inc, Victorian Branch and The Institute of Land and Food Resources, The University of Melbourne extend a cordial invitation to you to attend the eleventh

Professor G.W. Leeper Memorial Lecture

Friday, 15 November 2002 at 5 pm

“Farming Without Harming – A Challenge for Soil Science”

Dr John Williams

Chief, CSIRO Land and Water

Land and water damage resulting from farming the Australian landscape is well documented. Much of this degradation is the consequence of agro-ecosystems which are leaky with respect to carbon, water and nutrients. The challenge before soil science is to find plant production systems that can capture this waste and turn it into wealth creating products and ecosystem services. Soil science will need to lift its gaze beyond the profile to the dynamics of soil processes at the scale of catchments and landscapes. This presents a major challenge for soil science.

Venue: Turner Lecture Theatre, School of Botany, The University of Melbourne

Introduction to the Lecture by Dr Robert van de Graaff

Soils, waste water disposal & contaminated sites consultant, van de Graaff & Associates Pty Ltd

Followed by a dinner at IL VICOLO (BYO), 50 Grattan St Carlton @ 7.00 pm.

Would those wishing to attend the dinner please contact:

Ms Karen Smith

Treasurer, Victorian Branch, The Australian Society of Soil Science Inc.

C/- Institute of Land and Food Resources, The University of Melbourne, Vic 3010

Ph: 0142 155 156, Email: ksmith@unimelb.edu.au

With a payment of \$40 (\$30 student) per person payable to ‘The Australian Society of Soil Science Inc., Victorian Branch’ before Friday 9 November. Guests are welcome to attend.

(detach and send with your cheque)

I.....shall attend the dinner and will bringguest/s. I
enclose a cheque for \$

2002 CPSS AWARDED

Stage 3 Leading Professional Soil Scientists

Stage 3	Mr Colin Ahern,	INDOOROOPILLY	CPSS awarded 19/07/2002
Stage 3	Dr. Peter Bacon,	CASTLE HILL	CPSS awarded 10/04/2002
Stage 3	Mr. Jean-Pierre Baumgartner,	LANDSBOROUGH	CPSS awarded 18/06/2002
Stage 3	Dr. Richard Bell,	MURDOCH	CPSS awarded 19/07/2002
Stage 3	Dr. Warren Bond,	CANBERRA	CPSS awarded 9/04/2002
Stage 3	Mr. Stuart Boucher,	MONASH UNIVERSITY	CPSS awarded 10/04/2002
Stage 3	Mr Howard Briggs,	TARINGA	CPSS awarded 18/06/2002
Stage 3	Dr. Daniel Carter,	LOWER KING	CPSS awarded 18/09/2002
Stage 3	Dr. Alexander L Cogle,	MAREEBA	CPSS awarded 8/05/2002
Stage 3	Dr Ross Coventry,	TOWNSVILLE	CPSS awarded 19/07/2002
Stage 3	Dr Eric Craswell,	CANBERRA	
Stage 3	Dr. Bob Crouch,	QUEENBEYAN	CPSS awarded 10/04/2002
Stage 3	Mr. Rob Cumming,	GOULBURN	
Stage 3	Mr. Kenneth Day,	ROCKHAMPTON M.C.	CPSS awarded 10/04/2002
Stage 3	Dr. David Edwards,	BRISBANE	CPSS awarded 10/04/2002
Stage 3	Mr Peter Fogarty,	JAMISON	CPSS awarded 9/04/2002
Stage 3	Mr John Gallienne,	WARRAGUL	CPSS awarded 19/07/2002
Stage 3	Mr. Neil Griffiths,	PATERSON	CPSS awarded 10/04/2002
Stage 3	Dr. Pam Hazelton,	GYMEA BAY	CPSS awarded 19/07/2002
Stage 3	Mr. Clifford Hignett,	DAW PARK	CPSS awarded 10/04/2002
Stage 3	Mrs. Catherine Hird,	WENTWORTH FALLS	
Stage 3	Dr. Malcolm Hunter,	CHAPEL HILL	CPSS awarded 10/04/2002
Stage 3	Mr Lindsay Jones,	KEW	CPSS awarded
Stage 3	Mr Peter King,	NORTHAM	CPSS awarded 18/06/2002
Stage 3	Mr. Roy Lawrie,	CAMDEN	CPSS awarded 10/04/2002
Stage 3	Dr David Leece,	BEECROFT	CPSS awarded 9/04/2002
Stage 3	Dr. Robert Loch,	DARLING HEIGHTS	CPSS awarded 19/07/2002
Stage 3	Dr. Simon Lott,	ARMIDALE	
Stage 3	Mr Stuart Macnish,	INDOOROOPILLY	CPSS awarded 10/04/2002
Stage 3	Mr William Matheson,	MAGILL	CPSS awarded 10/04/2002
Stage 3	Dr John McGarity,	SUFFOLK PARK	
Stage 3	Dr. David McKenzie,	ORANGE	CPSS awarded 8/05/2002
Stage 3	Dr Michael McLaughlin,	GLEN OSMOND	CPSS awarded 19/07/2002
Stage 3	Mr Richard Merry,	GLEN OSMOND	CPSS awarded 19/07/2002
Stage 3	Mr. Paul Milham,	CHATSWOOD	CPSS awarded
Stage 3	Mr. Rick Morse,	PICTON	CPSS awarded 9/04/2002
Stage 3	Mr Philip Mulvey,	NORTH SYDNEY	CPSS awarded 7/05/2002
Stage 3	Dr John Murtagh,	RUNAWAY BAY	CPSS awarded 8/05/2002
Stage 3	Mr David Nash,	STRZELECKI	CPSS awarded 7/05/2002
Stage 3	Mr David Orr,	LAUNCESTON	CPSS awarded 8/05/2002
Stage 3	Dr. Robert (Bob) Patterson,	ARMIDALE	CPSS awarded 8/05/2002
Stage 3	Mr. Bernard Powell,	INDOOROOPILLY	CPSS awarded 18/06/2002
Stage 3	Mr Graham Price,	ROBERTSON	CPSS awarded 9/04/2002
Stage 3	Mr. David Rees,	FRANKSTON	
Stage 3	Mr Robert Reid,	FIG TREE POCKET	CPSS awarded 18/06/2002
Stage 3	Assoc. Prof. Steven Riley,	PENRITH SOUTH DC	
Stage 3	Dr Gottfried Scholz,	ARMADALE	CPSS awarded 18/06/2002
Stage 3	Mr Mark Seeliger,	DERNANCOURT	CPSS awarded 18/06/2002
Stage 3	Dr George Smith,	HIGHFIELDS	CPSS awarded 7/05/2002
Stage 3	Mr. Henry Smolinski,	KALAMUNDA	CPSS awarded 8/05/2002
Stage 3	Ass. Pro. Hwat Bing So,	UNIVERSITY OF QLD	CPSS awarded 18/06/2002
Stage 3	Dr. Wayne Strong,	TOOWOOMBA	CPSS awarded 9/04/2002
Stage 3	Dr. Peter Thorburn,	INDOOROOPILLY	CPSS awarded 19/07/2002
Stage 3	Dr. Robin Thwaites,	TOWNSVILLE	CPSS awarded 8/05/2002

2002 CPSS Awarded Continued

Stage 3	Mr Graeme Tupper,	ORANGE	CPSS awarded 8/05/2002
Stage 3	Dr Robert Van de Graaff,	MITCHAM	CPSS awarded 19/07/2002
Stage 3	Mr Kenneth Wetherby,	CLEVE	CPSS awarded 9/04/2002
Stage 3	Mr. Larry White,	STRATHFIELDSAYE	CPSS awarded 10/04/2002
Stage 3	Prof. Robert White,	PARKVILLE	CPSS awarded 7/05/2002
Stage 3	Dr John Williams,	CANBERRA	

Stage 2 Experienced Professional Soil Scientists

Stage 2	Mr Robert Banks,	GUNNEDAH	CPSS awarded 19/07/2002
Stage 2	Ms. Laura Beaupeurt,	BONDI	CPSS awarded 10/04/2002
Stage 2	Mr. Greg Chapman,	PARRAMATTA	CPSS awarded 9/04/2002
Stage 2	Mr. William Cotching,	DEVONPORT	CPSS awarded 10/04/2002
Stage 2	Mr. Peter Cousins,	CRYSTAL BROOK	CPSS awarded 10/04/2002
Stage 2	Mr David Ford,	RIVERSIDE	CPSS awarded 9/04/2002
Stage 2	Dr. Guy Geeves,	COWRA	CPSS awarded 19/07/2002
Stage 2	Mr. Brendan George,	TAMWORTH	CPSS awarded 7/05/2002
Stage 2	Mr Ian Hollingsworth,	WINNELLIE	CPSS awarded 10/04/2002
Stage 2	Mr Geoff Kew,	WILLETTON	CPSS awarded 9/04/2002
Stage 2	Dr Gunnar Kirchof,	BRISBANE	CPSS awarded 10/04/2002
Stage 2	Mr Gregory Madafiglio,	ORANGE	CPSS awarded 7/05/2002
Stage 2	Mr Jamie McMaster,	THE BASIN	CPSS awarded 9/04/2002
Stage 2	Mr. David Morand,	ALSTONVILLE	CPSS awarded 10/04/2002
Stage 2	Ms. Danielle Oliver,	GLEN OSMOND	CPSS awarded 10/10/02
Stage 2	Mr Henry Parsons,	MILTON	CPSS awarded 18/06/2002
Stage 2	Ms Melissa Salt,	HOUGHTON	CPSS awarded 18/06/2002
Stage 2	Miss Robyn Tucker,	HORSHAM	CPSS awarded 10/04/2002
Stage 2	Mr Craig Wissell,	BURRA	CPSS awarded 10/04/2002

Stage 1 Professional Soil Scientists

Stage 1	Dr Geoffrey Anderson,	WEMBLEY DOWNS	CPSS awarded 10/04/2002
Stage 1	Mr. Don Barnes,	TOOWOOMBA	
Stage 1	Mr Bruce Dalgliesh,	DARLINGTON POINT	CPSS awarded 18/09/2002
Stage 1	Mr. Mark Delaney,	CARRINGTON	
Stage 1	Mr. Cliff Dillon,	SHEPPARTON EAST	CPSS awarded 9/04/2002
Stage 1	Dr. Richard Greene,	CANBERRA	CPSS awarded 19/07/2002
Stage 1	Mr. Scott Hardy,	MOUNT JULIAN	CPSS awarded 10/04/2002
Stage 1	Ms. Linda Henderson,	PARRAMATTA	
Stage 1	Miss Kylie Hey,	INDOOROOPILLY	
Stage 1	Mr Nick Hillier,	HYNAM	
Stage 1	Mr Bruce Hudgson,	MELTON	CPSS awarded 10/04/2002
Stage 1	Dr. Patrick Hulme,	WARREN	CPSS awarded 9/04/2002
Stage 1	Assoc. Prof. Geoffrey Humphreys,	MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY	CPSS awarded 9/04/2002
Stage 1	Mr. Scott Irvine,	EMERALD	CPSS awarded 10/04/2002
Stage 1	Mr. Rodney Masters,	MAITLAND	CPSS awarded 18/09/2002
Stage 1	Dr. Brian Murphy,	COWRA	
Stage 1	Dr. Pichu Rengasamy,	GLEN OSMOND	CPSS awarded 10/04/2002
Stage 1	Mr. Christian Roth,	AITKENVALE	CPSS awarded 9/04/2002
Stage 1	Mr John Rubsov,	PARAMATTA	
Stage 1	Dr Siva Sivapalan,	WAGGA WAGGA	CPSS awarded 19/07/2002
Stage 1	Associate Prof. David Smith,	WALLSEND	CPSS awarded 9/04/2002
Stage 1	Mr. Mark Stuckey,	NORTH SYDNEY	CPSS awarded 9/04/2002
Stage 1	Mr Martin Wells,	SUBIACO	
Stage 1	Mrs. Lucy Wildman,	LYONS	CPSS awarded 9/04/2002
Stage 1	Mr. Peter Zund,	GYMPIE	CPSS awarded 19/08/2002

New Commission Structure of IUSS

The New Division and Commission Structure for IUSS is as follows. Elections for the positions of Chairpersons and members of ad-hoc committees were arranged during the 17th World Congress of Soil Science held in Thailand in August. Most of the positions were filled, with several Australian soil scientists being appointed (see President's Report, Page 3).

DIVISION 1 Soil in Space & Time Commission 1.1 Soil Macro- and Micro-Morphology Commission 1.2 Soil Geography Commission 1.3 Soil Genesis Commission 1.4 Soil Classification Commission 1.5 Paleopedology	DIVISION 3 Soil Use & Management Commission 3.1 Soil Evaluation and Land Use Planning Commission 3.2 Soil and water Conservation Commission 3.3 Soil Fertility and Plant Nutrition Commission 3.4 Soil Engineering and Technology Commission 3.5 Soil Degradation Control, Remediation and Reclamation
DIVISION 2 Soil Properties & Processes Commission 2.1 Soil Physics Commission 2.2 Soil Chemistry Commission 2.3 Soil Biology Commission 2.4 Soil Mineralogy Commission 2.5 Soil Physical/Chemical/Biological (Interfacial) Interactions Commission 2.6 Pedometrics	DIVISION 4 The Role of Soils in Sustaining Society and the Environment Commission 4.1 Soils and the Environment Commission 4.2 Soils, Food Security and Human Health Commission 4.3 Soils and Land Use Change Commission 4.4 Soil Education and Public Awareness Commission 4.5 History, Philosophy and Sociology of Soil Science

****New soils poster released

A new poster titled "*Predicting Soil Distribution*" has just been published by the NSW Department of Land and Water Conservation (DLWC) in collaboration with ASSSI. It was prepared by Jonathan Gray and Brian Murphy, both of DLWC with advice and assistance from many ASSSI Branches. The poster is designed to assist in the prediction and understanding of possible soil types occurring in different locations based on parent material, topography and rainfall. It also provides some background information on the main factors influencing soil distribution and the broad management features of the main Australian soil types.

Fifteen thousand copies of the poster have been printed. Of these, 10,000 have already gone out, mainly to secondary schools around the country (via the Science and Geography Teachers Associations). Many will also be distributed to other natural resource organisations, government agencies and universities nationwide.

A draft international version of the poster was displayed at the ASSSI Trade Booth at the recent World Congress of Soil Science in Bangkok (August 2002). This used the new international soil classification scheme, the World Reference Base for Soil Resources, rather than the Australian Soil Classification Scheme. The poster attracted a great deal of interest from delegates from many countries, including some key figures in world soil science. An Indonesian academic is in the process of translating it into Indonesian. It appears likely that the concepts may be taken further at the international level under the auspices of the International Union of Soil Science. A background Poster Paper by the same authors, "*Parent Material and World Soil Distribution*", was given the Best Poster Award for its particular Symposium (Soil Classification, Accomplishments and Future).

Copies of the poster (Australian version) are expected to be distributed free to all ASSSI members in due course. They can also be purchased for \$6 (plus p&p) from the DLWC Information Centre (<mailto:infocentre@dlwc.nsw.gov.au> or 02 9228 6415) or from the ASSSI Executive Officer (asssi@bigpond.net.au or 03 5974 1758).

World Congress of Soil Science 2010

The ASSSI Bid for the WCSS to be held in Brisbane in 2010 was successful....

As you all would know, the ASSSI put a bid in to host the 19th World Congress of Soil Science in 2010. This bid was successfully presented by Lyn Abbott at the 17th WCSS in Bangkok in August. ASSSI also had a display booth at the congress where we had information on soil science in Australia, publications/posters/CD's about soils and a map and posters of Australia. We would like to thank all of the following people who helped to set up and be present at the display. We apologise if I have forgotten anybody.

Lyn Abbott	Ron McLaren	Bernie Powell
Richard Bell	Mike McLaughlin	Balbir Singh
Colin Chartres	Richard Merry	Bill Slattery
Louise Clark	Elizabeth Meier	Kathy Snars
Tam Flavel	Nui Milton	Kaye Spark
Bob Gilkes	Phil Mulvey	Roger Swift
Jonathon Gray	Bob Myers	Anthony Whitbread
Ben Harms	Ravi Naidu	Zhi-Hong Xu

Thanks also to Saumitra Bannerjee and Trang Huynh from CSIRO publishing who helped with the display.

we would also like to thank the bid steering committee for their perseverance and support in putting together the bid document and organising the display.

Dr Neal Menzies	Qld Branch ASSSI nominee
Prof. Alex McBratney	NSW Branch ASSSI nominee
Prof. Leigh Sullivan	NSW Branch ASSSI nominee
Dr Mike McLaughlin	SA Branch ASSSI nominee
Prof. Ron McLaren	NZSSS nominee
Prof. Roger Swift	University of Queensland
Prof. Clive Bell	CMLR
Prof. Bob White	University of Melbourne
Dr Colin Chartres	CSIRO – CLW Canberra
Mr Phil Mulvey	Environmental & Earth Sciences, NSW
A/Prof. L. K. Abbott	Hon. Pres. ASSSI (UWA)
Ms Jenny Fegent	Editor AJSR

We hope to see everyone at the 19th World Congress of Soil Science in 2010 in Brisbane, Queensland.

Professor Bob Gilkes, (Chair) and Katherine Snars, (Secretary) 2010 WCSS Bid Committee

ASSSI SPECIAL SUPPORT FUND

At the last meeting of Federal Council, it was agreed to provide \$10,000 as a loan to support the development of the ICSO International Conference in 2004 in Brisbane. Pam Hazelton has reminded the Federal Council that \$9,000 (from a successful 5 day contaminated land management workshop) was transferred to Federal Council in 1999 with the intention of it being available to loan to groups of ASSSI members to initiate a workshop, field day or similar activity. The next meeting of Federal Council will more clearly define the role of this special support fund and encourage its use according to the principles suggested by the NSW-based Federal Council.

BOOK REVIEW

Soils in the Australian Landscape by **Ann Young and Robert Young**,
Published by Oxford University Press 2001. 210pp. \$59.95 ISBN 019551550-1

The aim of the authors was to explore the relationship between soils and landscape in an Australian context and to understand soils within a holistic framework. This I believe has been achieved, providing readers with a fundamental understanding of soil science and its importance in a wide range of environments from agriculture to forests, to rangelands and cities. This book explores a new kind of soil interface and with effective use of figures and excellent colour prints demonstrates, the complexity of understanding soil and landform history.

The format and production of the book are excellent. The presentation and layout of the text is clear, concise and appropriately referenced. The contents of each chapter is well indexed. Basic information is written in a style that is easy to understand. For those wishing to pursue the topic further, text boxes are used throughout to good effect. The technical explanations placed within these boxes deal only with that topic. Overall considering its length (10 chapters - see below) it contains a wealth of relevant information. It has an extensive reference list, a comprehensive glossary and useful additional information on resources such as books, CD's and Internet sites.

There has been a need for an Australian book not only to promote interest and understanding of soil issues but also to address the wider issues of soil science. The authors have achieved this while attaining a manageable text suitable for a range of levels and disciplines such as environmental science, soil science and environmental engineering.

Chapters in the book include; 1. The continental setting; 2. Describing and naming a soil; 3. Which soil is where?; 4. Water and soil; 5. Organisms and soils; 6. Soil erosion and mass movement; 7. Old and hard soils; 8. Soils of high agricultural value; 9. Soils of forests and rangelands; 10. Soils in and around cities.

Pam Hazelton

ASSSI
National Conference
PERTH
December 1- 6

Check Website for latest details

www.agric.uwa.edu.au/soils/futuress/index.html



Federal Council Minutes 207

Opening:

The meeting opened at 1.34 pm WST. Paterson Room, Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences, The University of Western Australia

Attendance:

Lyn Abbott (Hon Federal President), Keith Lindbeck (Hon Federal Treasurer), Andrew Rate (WA)

Phone: Aravind Surpaneni (Vic), Graeme Tupper (NSW), Cameron Grant (SA), Mike Grundy (Qld; joined meeting at 2:04pm WST)

Apologies:

Linda Bennison (Executive Officer), Richard Harper (Hon Federal Secretary), John Thompson (Riverina),

No proxies for Riverina or ACT.

Business arising from minutes of Federal Council Meetings 206 and 206-b:

Minutes accepted subject to insertion of accurate wording of a missing motion in the minutes of meeting 206-b (ACTION: KL/AR).

President's Report

Welcome to new members -

Aravind Surapaneni (Vic), Mike Grundy (Qld) and John Thompson (Riverina) were formally welcomed onto Federal Council.

Congratulations to Linda Bennison -

Linda Bennison (Executive Officer), has won a Churchill Fellowship to go overseas and investigate processes related to management of organisations such as the Grasslands Association and ASSSI. It was considered very fortunate that ASSSI would benefit from Linda's success.

Thanks to outgoing State Presidents -

Tony Weatherley (VIC) and Evan Christen (Riverina) were thanked for their contributions to Federal Council.

President's visit to Victoria and South Australia -

Lyn Abbott presented a brief overview to Federal Council.

Correspondence with WCSS/IUSS -

ASSSI has initiated correspondence with IUSS regarding hosting of the 19th WCSS in 2010. It was

considered that Federal Council was not yet at a stage where discussion of this issue would be useful. IUSS will meet during the Bangkok WCSS. IUSS membership fees -

Correspondence received from the NZSSS indicated some concern about increased membership fees for IUSS. Lyn Abbott will circulate information to Federal Council members for comment/advice. The increased level of communication between ASSSI and NZSSS was noted and considered a very favourable development.

Executive Officer's contract -

Lyn Abbott noted that the Executive Officer's contract had expired. The strong consensus of Federal Council was that ASSSI should endeavour to retain a person of Linda Bennison's quality. It was resolved to renew the Executive Officer's contract, with salary indexed to CPI, back-dated to 1 July 2002.

Executive Officer's Report

Several new members nominated. CG moved to confirm new members, GT seconded, and this was approved.

The issue of large numbers of unfinancial members was seen as a disturbing trend and branches were encouraged to follow up on unpaid memberships. It was noted that the Executive Officer was always grateful to receive updated contact information for members from Branches.

Secretary's Report

The Hon. Secretary had given apologies for his absence at the meeting. His written report indicated that there was a single nomination for the ASSSI Student Travel Award to the World Soils Congress in Thailand. The committee (Abbott, Weatherley and Harper) resolved to award this; however, the recipient was unable to take up the award as she was already in receipt of one from a State Branch.

Treasurer's Report

A summary of accounts was presented Keith Lindbeck. The financial position of ASSSI is currently very healthy:

Federal Council Minutes 207 Continued

Net income for 1 Jan 2002 – 30 June 2002

\$41,584.91

Fixed deposit (St George Bank, renewed)

\$49,744.77

The following expenditure was approved by Federal Council:

Additional work related to CPSS by Exec Officer \$2860.00

Various administrative expenses \$2860.00

AJSR subs and photocopying \$1459.87

Additional committed expenses include the Hon President's airfare to WCSS Bangkok.

Profile Editor's Report

General support for electronic distribution of *Profile*. Lyn Abbott indicated that the recent problems with large file sizes had been overcome.

Branch President's Reports

Edited versions of reports will appear in *Profile*.

A report on status and progress of ASSSI awards committees was prepared by Cam Grant (SA).

Specific issues: Discussion of the proposal for a 'best PhD' award prepared by the WA Branch was deferred until Federal Council meeting 208.

General Business

ASSSI Strategic Plan -

There was positive comment about the level and diversity of activities at Branch level, with some concern expressed about limited outreach outside the confines of ASSSI. Lyn Abbott recommended that Branches consider meetings with Aboriginal communities, with a view to exploring their attitude towards soils, as an issue of national focus for the Society. The Strategic Plan would continue to be presented in *Profile*.

CPSS Scheme -

The first meeting of the CPSS Accreditation Committee (Robert White, Rick Morse, Rob Fitzpatrick and Dennis Toohey; Lyn Abbott and Linda Bennison also contributed) was convened in Melbourne recently. Future directions of CPSS were discussed and procedures decided for further improvement in the running of the scheme. Robert White will chair the Committee.

There was some concern that there might be lower participation in CPSS with increased membership costs, but the reverse has occurred, with there currently being 106 CPSS-accredited people in the scheme. Linda Bennison was thanked for her excellent work in managing CPSS during the transitional period.

'FutureSoils' Conference, December 2002 – update

A draft of the registration form was expected to be available by 26 July 2002, with circulation in the week beginning 29 July. Registration form to include declaration by students intending to access the 50% registration cost requiring University supervisor signature; student status to be determined at the discretion of state branch Presidents. All speakers including keynote addresses are organised. A public forum to be facilitated by John Colwell (previously presenter of ABC's 'Gardening Australia') and including a panellist from the Aboriginal community was planned for the Thursday evening.

Joint ASSSI/NZSSS Conference 2004 -

No change since federal Council Meeting 206.

IUSS Conference in Thailand – (August 2002) -

A formal bid to host the 2010 WCSS will be placed before the IUSS Committee at this conference.

The request for Branches to provide information on Abstracts from each member attending this conference was re-stated. Volunteers to assist on the ASSSI/CSIRO Publishing stall are still being sought from Branches.

ASSSI Medals & Awards Committee -

Lyn Abbott thanked Cameron Grant for his work on the Awards Committees. Cameron Grant sought and obtained approval to proceed with formation of the JK Taylor Medal committee (proposed members Cameron Grant (SA; Convener), John Freney (ACT), Brent Clothier (NZ), Judy Tisdall (VIC), Leigh Sparrow (TAS) and Bob Gilkes (WA)).

The absence of nominations for the ASSSI publication medal was noted, and the committee will actively pursue nominations if none are received by August 31 2002.

Cameron Grant also mentioned that the quota for Honorary Life Membership was not currently full (Ken Lee being the most recent addition - awarded by Lyn Abbott last week), leaving ~5 vacancies. He has invited several people across Australia to develop cases for people in their respective areas of expertise (and had positive responses). It was expected that some Honorary Memberships would be considered at the first Council meeting after Sept 30th this year, and that some presentations might be made at the Perth Conference.

ISCO Conference 2006 - NOW in 2004

Mike Grundy described the formation of a large and active committee to organise this conference, with several draft budget options being considered.

Federal Council Minutes Continued

Attendance was expected in the 400-600 delegate range. Venues and professional organisers were currently being pursued. **THIS CONFERENCE WILL NOW BE HELD IN BRISBANE IN 2004**

Other Business

ISTRO Conference 2003: The International Soil and Tillage Research Organization conference is scheduled for August 2003. Cameron Grant is involved with organisation and sees opportunities to promote ASSSI. Mike Grundy intended to use

the ISTRO event as an opportunity to publicise the 2006 ISCO conference.

ASSSI website -

Inclusion of links to, or PDF versions of, Branch newsletters were considered useful additions to the <http://www.asssi.asn.au/> website. This was to be pursued by the Queensland and NSW branches and any other branch producing newsletter material.

Close

Meeting closed at 2:29 pm WST.

Next Meeting

Federal Council 208, September 27, 1.30 pm, WST.

CHANGING RESEARCH PRACTICES IN THE ELECTRONIC INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION ENVIRONMENT

The Coalition for Innovation and Scholarly Communication (CISC) identified and commented upon a number of issues relating to changing patterns in scholarly communication. Much however, has happened since those studies and a number of groups eg the Australian Peak Libraries Forum, have identified the need for a study to provide a snapshot of research practices and access to information in the scholarly community.

Professor John Houghton and Colin Steele have established significant reputations in researching and publishing on the issues of scholarly communication. DEST have recognised this expertise and funded a study of research practices to feed into the debate on systemic infrastructure issues. Following liaison with John Shipp, the Convenor of the DEST Information Infrastructure Advisory Committee, DEST have approved REP funding of \$148,700 (including GST) to Victoria University (Center for Strategic Economic Studies) for John Houghton and Colin Steele to carry out a project to be completed by mid-2003 on "Changing Research Practices in the Electronic Information and Communication Environment".

An abstract of the study proposal follows:

There are a number of inter-related factors driving changes in the ways in which researchers create, communicate, access and manage information. Among the more significant of these are increasing demand for commercialisation and productivity and the impact of information and communications technology (ICT) with consequent changes in the patterns of accessing information and communicating findings. It is only by understanding the evolving needs of researchers and the emerging mechanisms for meeting them, that we can begin to consider the effective resourcing of their activities at individual, evolving research practices, asking how is the practice of research in various fields changing, and what are the implications of those changes for how researchers will do their work in the future and what sources and resources they might need?

Contacts:

John Houghton, Professorial Fellow, Centre for Strategic Economic Studies, Victoria University, Phone (02) 6282 1981 E-mail john.houghton@pobox.com
Colin Steele, Director Scholarly Information Strategies, Australian National University, Phone (02) 6125 8983 E-mail colin.steele@anu.edu.au

A copy of the full proposal is available on request from John Houghton (john.houghton@pobox.com) or from <http://www.netspeed.com.au/jhoughton/ProjectOutline.pdf>



Life Membership of ASSSI: Dr Ken Lee

**Dr Ken Lee was presented with his award of Honorary Life Member of ASSSI
on July 17th 2002 in Adelaide.**

Firstly, but by no means most importantly, Ken at the age of 75, is Editor-in-Chief of a book about South Australian soils to be published by the Australian Society of Soil Science in 2003. Now those who have edited & co-authored publications before, will understand what a mammoth task this can be, particularly when dealing with some 40 authors. Ken has done this work while suffering excruciating back-pain, for which he underwent surgery last year – and he has patiently waited for several of us to complete our contributions to this book (me included!) – some people have even submitted apologies tonight rather than face Ken knowing their chapters were not ready! So, we would like to say thank you Ken for all your work so far as a CSIRO Hon. Res. Fellow, and we expect to celebrate its publication with you next year.

In addition to his upcoming book on South Australian soils, Ken has published other major books as senior (or sole) author, which today continue to be authoritative texts on the subjects, including: Termites & Soils published with T.G. Wood by Academic Press (1971). and Earthworms: their ecology and relationships with soils and land use by Academic Press (1985).

Aside from obtaining his BSc, MSc and DSc, AND publishing his books and some 85 other scientific papers in his professional career, Ken also managed to lead scientific expeditions in the 50s & 60s on behalf of Royal Society of London and French Academy of Science to Solomon Islands and to Vanuatu, when these were largely in 'virgin' states. He was Head of Soil Biology in NZ's DSIR Soils-Bureau during early 60s. He was also Head of Soil Zoology in CSIRO Soils Div. during 1970s and became Deputy Chief CSIRO Division of Soils for five years, from 1986 to 1990.

Ken has also been President of NZ Ecological Society, Chairman ISSS-Subcom. D: the Zoology Working Group, Vice-chairman ISSS Com. 3, President Royal Society of SA, On the editorial board for *Biology & Fertility of Soils*, Guest editor of *Biodiversity & Conservation*, Supervisor of numerous postgraduate students at Univ. of Adelaide and Flinders Univ., Assessor of research grant applications for just about every major funding body in the southern hemisphere, and some in the north as well. He has also been President of ASSSI-SA Branch and Chairman of ASSSI National Soils Conference in 1992. In 1986 he was awarded the ASSSI Prescott Medal.

For his contributions to science, he has received: a Fellowship of the Explorers Club of New York, the NZ Association of Scientists Research Medal, the Nuffield Foundation Fellowship and the Vercoe Medal from Royal Society of SA.

This is only a thumb-nail sketch of Ken's contribution to the profession of soil science and to our own Australian Society of Soil Science, but I believe it enables you to appreciate that we feel it entirely fitting to bestow upon Ken an Honorary Life Membership in our Society.

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2-6 Dec 2002 National Soils Conference Australia Soc. Soil Sci Inc.Future Soils
www.agric.uwa.edu.au/soils/futuress/index.html

Jan 2003 Soil Science Society South Africa - 50th Anniversary Congress www.soils.org.za

2-6 Feb 2003 11th Australian Agronomy Conference 'Solutions for a better environment' Deakin University Geelong, Victoria www.cdesign.com.au/agro2003

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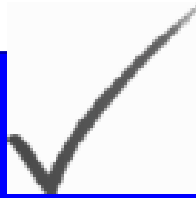
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