



**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.

The ASSSI is committed to:

- Advancing soil science
- Providing a link between soil scientists and members of kindred bodies within Australia and in other countries.

Specific ASSSI 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

ASSSI 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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Advertisements

Advertisements relevant to some aspect of soil science are welcome. Charges are full page \$220, half page \$110, quarter page \$55 (GST inclusive).

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Profile



From the President - Cameron Grant

The Future Soils Conference in Western Australia last December was a big success, and I would like to add my voice to the choir of congratulations and thanks already expressed to the Perth organizing committee. It was terrific to see so many young soil scientists, and particularly pleasing to see that a student, Ms Louise Clark, won the award for the best oral presentation at the conference. The unquestionable relevance of soil science to Australian society was highlighted by the hugely creative response to Professor Lyn Abbott's talk, in which she solicited written input from her assembled audience. Some of the ideas recorded during her presentation were published in the last issue of Profile but there were far too many ideas for one issue, so these will gradually appear in this and future Profiles.

Plenty is happening in Australian soil science, and only a few things can be highlighted here. For example, several of our ASSSI-members have brought big international soils conferences to Australia (e.g. ISTRO in Brisbane, July 2003; ISCO in Brisbane, July 2004; ASSSI/NZSSS Soils Conference in Sydney, 2004; IUSS World Congress, 2010). The amount of effort required to bring these to fruition is enormous and we applaud those who are involved. ASSSI activities are not restricted just to conferences, however, and I draw your attention to the very interesting reports in this Profile on Branch field-trips and other opportunities for professional development offered by the Society. You should be aware the SA Branch is about to publish a book on the Properties and Management of SA Soils, which will appear as one in a series of three volumes in collaboration with SA Dept of Water, Land & Biodiversity Conservation (DWLBC) – a big achievement that has taken several years of hard work to complete.

ASSSI has a good system for recognizing excellence in Australian soil science, and I encourage you to identify good work when opportunities arise for nominations for the annual ASSSI Publication Medal, the annual J.A. Prescott Medal, and the biennial J.K. Taylor Medal. Federal Council will soon announce another national award to encourage young soil scientists – details of this will be published in the next Profile and the ASSSI Constitution. Watch this space. Our scheme for accrediting Certified Professional Soil Scientists (CPSS) is running pretty smoothly in the capable hands of Bob White, Rick Morse, Dennis Toohey and Rob Fitzpatrick in association with the Australian Institute of Agricultural Science & Technology (IAAST). In addition to the meticulous review work involved in accreditation, there are other things to be done. For example, the continued association with IAAST will be reviewed later this year with the aim to either formalize the ASSSI/IAAST arrangement or establish an independent accreditation system owned solely by ASSSI. Stay tuned.

The idea to merge all ASSSI Branches into a single federated body last year (see Profile 128, p.4-5) met with a rather lukewarm response, so this will be shelved for now. However, because taxation laws and insurance schemes have changed in recent years, Branch Executives will need to ensure they are operating under the same rules as Federal Council and that auditing occurs regularly. Branch Treasurers will need to be on their toes. The current Federal Council has met twice (by telephone hook-up) since December and we will continue to meet every other month this way throughout our term. As you can see from the Minutes of Federal Council meetings published in Profile, we continue to address the Strategic Plan 2002-2006 developed by Lyn Abbott and the previous Federal Council (cf. Profile 129, p.7; Profile 130, p.12; Profile 131 p.6-7; Profile 132 p.6-7).

If you have new ideas or concerns, or if you simply want to report something to the ASSSI Membership, please contact your Branch Executive or any other member of Federal Council (names all listed inside back cover). I encourage you to bring our web site to the attention of your colleagues in soil science (<http://www.asssi.asn.au>). This contains news and events, membership information, CPSS information, our constitution and governance, as well as new opportunities for students and professional development. Finally, we have been well served by our Executive Officer, Ms Linda Bennison, who offers sound advice and information about ASSSI's administrative matters. I would like to thank her for the professional and friendly service with which she provides us. I look forward to working with all of you over the next couple of years, and wish you every success in your soil science activities during 2003.



ASSSI PRESIDENT 2003-2004

Dr Cameron Grant

The Federal President of ASSSI, Cameron Grant, originally hails from Canada where he completed his Bachelor and Masters degrees working with Bev Kay and Pieter Groenevelt at University of Guelph. He came to Australia in 1985 for his doctorate (1989) working with Tony Dexter and Malcolm Oades at the University of Adelaide. After postdoctoral appointments through CSIRO and the ARC, he is now a lecturer in the management and conservation of soil and water resources in the School of Earth & Environmental Sciences at the University of Adelaide.

His research focuses on soil water availability as influenced by soil physical and chemical properties including dissolved solutes, unsaturated hydraulic conductivity, soil resistance to penetration, and overburden pressures (in swelling sub-soils). His

interest in the structure of swelling clay soils for crop production has taken him to the field to work with various horticultural consultants to better understand how to manage structure for high yields.

While he is appalled by the current state of higher education and research in Australia, he enjoys teaching soil science to enthusiastic undergraduates and helping postgraduates to plan and execute their projects – a sample of research questions for students is listed on his home page on the web, and inquiries are welcome: (http://www.waite.adelaide.edu.au/Soil_Water/cga.html).



From the Editor - Lyn Abbott

Thank you to the advertisers in Profile. All advertising or editorial material should be sent to the Profile Editor with copies sent to the ASSSI Executive Officer. Profile is prepared using the PageMaker program. All advertising should be forwarded electronically, preferably in the PageMaker format or in Word.

Advertisements should be print ready which reduces the likelihood of error in typesetting of advertisements by ASSSI. Page size is A4 with a portrait layout. Advertisements will be reduced where necessary to provide adequate page margins. Advertisements to be forwarded to the Australian Society of Soil Science Inc office. Payment is required within 30 days of invoicing.

Costs Full page advertisement	\$220;	Half page advertisement	\$110
Quarter page advertisement	\$55;	Back cover advertisement	subject to availability.

Any queries, please contact the Australian Society of Soil Science Inc office on telephone 03 5974 1758, facsimile 03 5974 1141 or email asssi@bigpond.net.au

Apologies for late inclusion of some information (such as the scholarship that may already have been filled). This has been included for general interest, to demonstrate activities of interest to ASSSI members.

Professor Robert White's reflection on his recent visit to Western Australia

Western Vision

*Silent land, brooding for a countless run
of years illuminated by a fiery sun,
feared of quenching in the cold blue sea
whence cautiously the black clouds flee
to an ancient shore to bathe the land
with life-giving waters to the rivers fanned.
A land begotten in latitudes high
when Gondwana expired with rasping sigh
now drifting north through climates variable
the soils reflect weathering indescribable.
But life had adjusted to the new environs
and balance prevailed 'fore European incursions
that saw eager settlers spilling o'er the plain
felling the silent grey sentinels to gain
endless acres for grass-munching cows
and dirt that yielded to the churning ploughs.
Little did they know the hydrologic scales
would tip as if disturbed by whales
and water would seep to subterranean stores
causing salty tears to erupt from sores
and saddened rivers to brim with emotion
that the earth had changed, no magic potion
could reverse the trend, so the salt scalds grew
and farmland retreated – for those who knew,
did they take tough action?
or turn deaf ears to the faction
that tried to call halt to exploitation
and encourage practice based on moderation.*

***NZ/ASSSI
CONFERENCE
DECEMBER 2004***

**FOR INSURANCE
PURPOSES
REMEMBER TO NOTIFY
FEDERAL EXECUTIVE
(Keith Lindbeck) IF YOU
ARE ARRANGING ASSSI
ACTIVITIES**

**Congratulations to
George Rayment**



I am delighted to advise that CRC Sugar's Protecting the Environment program leader, George Rayment, has this month received two prestigious awards for his scientific work on environmental protection.

At the 8th International Symposium on Soil and Plant Analysis in Cape Town earlier this month, George received the J. Benton Jones Jr. Award from the International Soil and Plant Analysis Council for dedicated service to the development of soil testing and plant analysis procedures. While he is the eighth recipient of this prestigious award, he is the first from outside north America or Europe. The award reflects the immense esteem with which George's scientific contribution to refining environmental measurement procedures is viewed internationally.

Meanwhile, at a ceremony on February 6th, George will receive an Australia Day 2003 Achievement Medallion from the state government, in recognition of his instrumental (role) over at least 20 years in guiding, mentoring and undertaking research into the downstream effects of agricultural practices. The citation for this award acknowledges George's significant role in furthering the understanding of impacts of agriculture and notes his leadership roles as convener of the international conference - Sustaining our aquatic environments - implementing solutions in November 2001, and his ongoing leadership role within CRC Sugar.

Congratulations, George, on these well-deserved external recognitions for your untiring work to help improve the long-term sustainability of our agriculture.

Dr Bob Lawn,
Chair of CRC Sugar

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

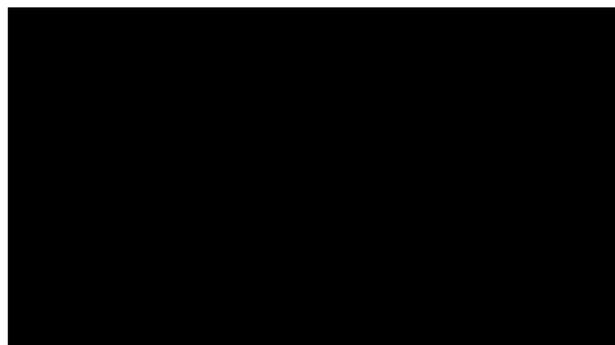
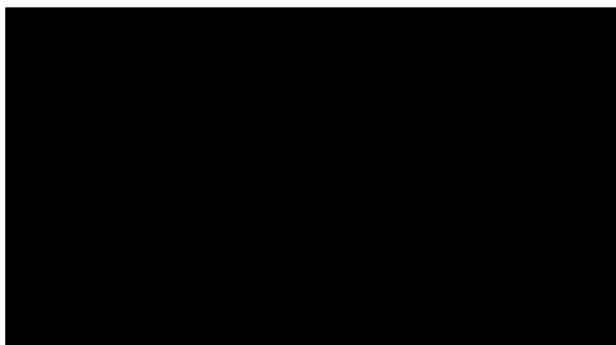
With a great diversity of interests among members, it should be possible for each ASSSI member to identify a particular activity that they might concentrate on for the next year or so. Please let your Branch Presidents know of your interest. **A strong and active ASSSI depends on participation by members.**

RAISING THE PROFILE OF SOIL

Suggestions from the FutureSoils Conference in Perth, 2002

This list was started in the last edition of Profile (No. 132)

49. Coordinated day in primary schools using simple activities to illustrate the importance of soil to the next generation
50. Survey of teachers presenting information on how children react to activities on soil
51. Botanic garden visits
52. Distribute free garden compost bins to businesses and public gardens
53. Schools targeted projects



ASSSI FEDERAL EXECUTIVE

2003-2004

President:	Dr Cameron Grant (SA Branch)
Vice President:	Dr Neil McKenzie (Qld Branch)
Secretary:	Dr Annie McNeil 1 (SA Branch)
Treasurer:	Dr Keith Lindbeck (WA Branch)
Newsletter Editor:	Prof. Lyn Abbott (WA Branch)

Branch Presidents will complete membership of the Federal Council. Currently these are:

Queensland:	Mr Mike Grundy
New South Wales:	Mr Greg Chapman
Riverina:	Mr John Thompson
Victoria:	Dr Aravind Surapaneni
South Australia:	to be appointed
Western Australia:	Dr Andrew Harley

Report from the Executive Officer

Since the last Federal Council meeting the administration time has been dominated by processing of annual subscriptions. 397 payments have been processed totaling \$57,944. Of this \$37,928 is the ASSSI subscription. At the same time last year 404 ASSSI subscriptions had been processed. Seven members have registered for the public liability scheme offered by the society through Fitzpatrick and Co. This has taken a reasonable amount of time to establish, as it is a new system. I would hope that once established it should not be difficult to administer, similar to the CSIRO AJSR offer. Although primarily developed for CPSS it is available to all financial members. Professional indemnity has to be negotiated on an individual basis with the broker and exclusions with contaminated sites and GS technical classifications for designs of domestic footings being common exclusions by underwriters. The AIAST is keen to work together on this issue.

Members have been asked to pay arrears for 2002 when paying their 2003 subscription. Electronic reminders have been sent to members alerting them to the late fee applying in April.

Work on the ASSSI website is in progress to introduce a "Members only" section accessible with a password.

Membership Profile of ASSSI

3% professors, 1.5% associate professors
42% Ph D / Drs
53% Mr, Mrs, Ms, Miss

Membership across the branches

21% NSW, 6% Riverina, 7% ACT, 16% Victoria, 27% QLD, 12% WA, 11% SA

Type of Membership

70% are Ordinary, 6% are Retired, 8% are Student
16% are Honorary and Complimentary (Life, library, society)

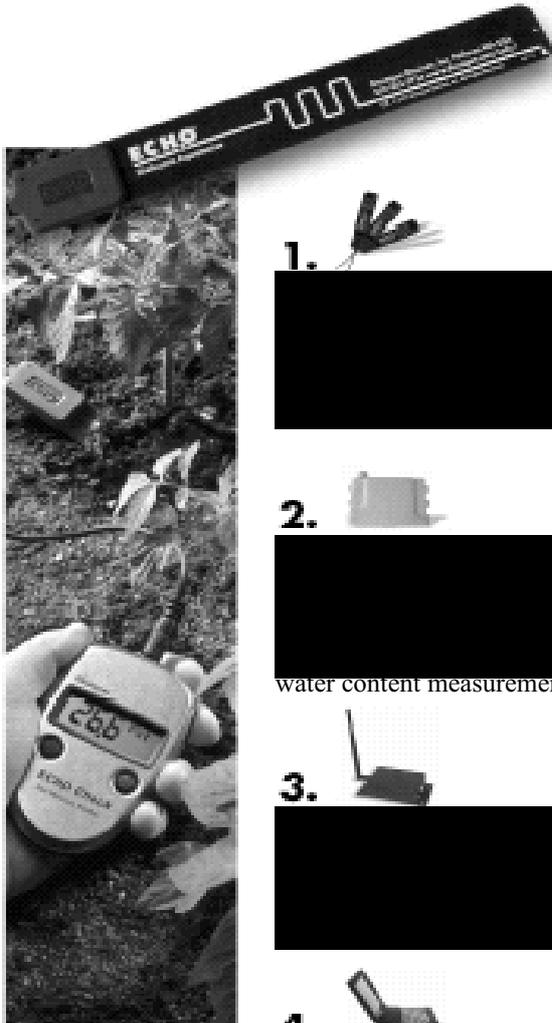
Members in NSW using Australia Post Postcodes

72 @ Sydney, 10 @ Canberra, 3 @ Central Coast (loose definition with postcodes), 9 @ Hunter Valley (loose definition with postcodes), 18 @ New England, 1 @ Mid north coast, 12 @ Northern Rivers, 6 @ South Coast, 2 @ Murray Region, 33 @ Riverina, 12 @ Central West, 5 @ Western Plains

CPSS ranking of branches according to the number of members

1 NSW & QLD
2 ACT
3 VIC

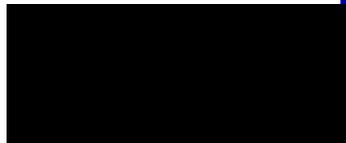
Lowest-Cost Soil Moisture Sensor



1.

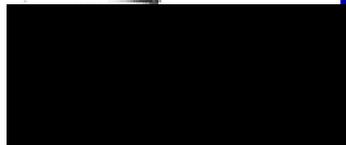


2.



water content measurements.

3.



4.



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RAISING THE PROFILE OF SOIL

Suggestions from the
FutureSoils Conference in
Perth, 2002

Continued from Profile 132

54. Have children 'adopt a plot' and give information on soil chemistry and biological changes over annual cycles from soil tests
55. Distribute free soil kits
56. TV series on 'Mysteries of Soil' using high profile presenter
57. Website specifically addressing information for primary and secondary education
58. Newsletter, field days, school links, information days, SOS
59. Set up community research plots on degraded soil
60. Have people/groups 'adopt a plot'. Have community field day on plots and take measurements and soil samples. Use newspaper articles to report the project.
61. Public lecture on soils
62. Photographic competition of soils with different categories: wind erosion, dust storm, close-up of soil microbiology. Publicise winners widely. Include school competition

**SEND
INFORMATION
FOR NEXT
PROFILE BY
15th JUNE 2003**

to
organic@agric.uwa.edu.au

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



Tremendous Tassi Trippin'

Gary Sheridan

Saturday morning of the Labour day long weekend saw a great turnout of 24 people from as far as Queensland, the ACT and New Zealand for the much anticipated Tassie soils tour. On the menu for the coming days were forest soils, viticulture, forestry, stunning scenery, bushwalks, festive dinners and much, much more. Everyone squeezed into 2 minibuses and a 4WD and, with the mist rising, headed towards the north east of the State.

Near Hollybank, we made our first stop to inspect some forest soils with Mike Laffan of Forestry Tasmania (an ex-Kiwi) and Peter McIntosh from the Tasmanian Forest Practices Board (also an ex-Kiwi). The focus of the morning's sites was on the dramatic variation in soil profile development, despite similar climate and geology. Fortunately, our wily guides had some well considered theories to account for such variation, and robust debate ensued regards the role of anthropogenic fire on soil development.

Arriving at our forest lunch-spot, theories of pedogenesis rapidly gave way to theories of how to remobilise a hamstrung Hertz rent-bus from the roadside culvert. A three way contest ensued between the jackers, the diggers, and the pushers, with a fourth, unofficial team, the advisers, nipping at the heels of the main players. The pushers won out, and as the bus ground its way forward we all marvelled at the special qualities of rental vehicles.

The afternoon's sites continued the theme of soil development under different forest types and raised the tricky question as to whether a dry forest can be wetter than a wet forest? More theories were aired, including the highly contentious "tree over" theory of forest gravel distribution. That night the lucky spent the evening at the Scamanda Motel, while the brave checked into the local camping ground. A great dinner was had by all at the local pub.

Sunday morning we headed south down the East Coast. I had read that this coastline drive was absolutely stunning with sweeping views of white sandy bays and rocky outcrops. I can't exactly confirm this, as the cloud and driving rain decided that we would be better served with introspection on this particular trip. Important topics were debated fiercely, such as who were the most color coordinated couple on the trip (easily won by Gary and Susanne Clark, with Lauren and Justin a close second). A quick, wet, stop at the intriguing Spikey Bridge near Swansea gave us time to conjecture on the purpose of the long spiky stones along the edge of this bridge.

Our first soil for the day was a sandy podzolized soil in dry forest with beautiful swirling golden colours from the iron-humus pan—as someone noted, a soil transcending the boundaries between science and art! At our next stop, we met up with the enthusiastic Richard Doyle, our guide for the day from The University of Tasmania (also an ex-Kiwi). A pattern was beginning to emerge of a coalition of the willing (soil scientists) colonising the small, Western Island of NZ! Richard described the locally named Court Soil—a Sodosol growing a young *E. nitens* plantation, and raised the question of the long-term sustainability of the privately owned plantation, given the poor water and nutrient status of the shallow soil.

Next stop was the Cole River valley for a view of an inverted basalt cutting. More showers, and some professional circle-work by Peter McIntosh enabled us to escape the wet and slippery Cole River for a quick lunch at a great local bakery. Next, we moved on to University Farm. The strong geomorphology background of the ex New Zealander came to the fore as geomorphology terms were flung freely from the nearest Horst, landing (imbricately) in adjacent Grabens (or was it the other way around?). We completed the day with a look at local salinity issues, and inspection of an aspect-derived soil sequence, somewhat complicated by Peters' discovery of some unwanted interfering geology! The rain was now heavier than ever, and while no one complained, the day was summed up well by Peter, "we've had a great day, even though we haven't had a great day". We finally headed off to Hobart, where we ate and drank well in the harbour district that evening.

Tassie Trip Continued on Page 11

CG Stephens PhD Award in Soil Science

ASSSI has a new National PhD Award

Nominations are called for this award (**deadline for submission of nominations JUNE 30, 2003**)

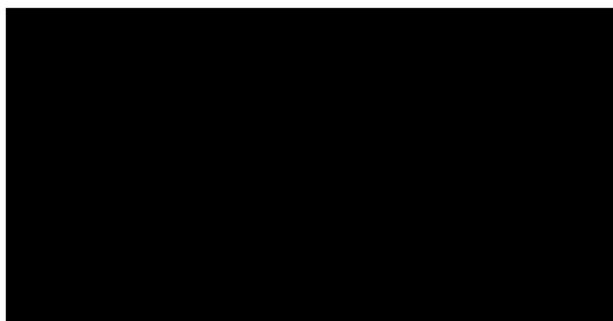
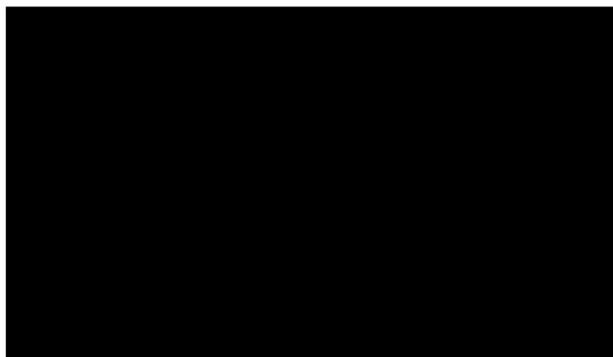
Please submit nominations directly to the ASSSI Federal Secretary, Annie McNeill

(ann.mcneill@adelaide.edu.au)

It was decided that there will be an annual National award for a PhD in Soil Science granted by an Australian university. The award will be named after the first winner of the Prescott Medal, Dr C.G. Stephens. There will be a monetary component to the Award (\$500 AUD) and a certificate. The award in any calendar year shall be for degrees awarded (not necessarily conferred) in the previous calendar year. 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. 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. The CG Stephens PhD Award Committee will select a short list from thesis abstracts, and the final decision will be made following consideration of the entire thesis. The ASSSI is not obliged to present the Award each year. 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. The CG Stephens PhD Award in Soil Science is not intended to supplant any awards made independently by Branches of the ASSSI.

Tassie Trip Continued from Page 10

Monday dawned a beautiful and sunny day and we set off to the Florentine Valley to meet Phil Smethurst of the CSIRO. Phil's excellent presentation outlined his work in the area of plantation tree nutrition. However, the hardened pit-dwellers in the audience started to get restless—they had not seen a pit for hours and were desperate for a fix. Responding to the agitation, Phil led the eager into the forest and quickly gave them a pit hit. Taxonomic discussions were again lively, though the onset of some leech-action led to much trouser leg tucking-in, leg scratching and general loss of concentration amongst the troops. Emerging from the forest into the sunshine we were treated to an astonishing view of Mt Field with river-like scree slopes emerging from the rocky peaks. The next stop was Mt Field National Park for some R&R – the tall trees walk. This completed, goodbyes were exchanged, and our trip was over. The littlest state put in a big effort for us all, and on behalf of all the participants, and the ASSSI Victoria branch, I would like to extend our warmest thanks to Peter McIntosh and Mike Laffan for organising the trip, and to the many very learned guides for sharing their time and imparting their wisdom along the way. We all emerged richer for the experience.



Arid Soils Tour of South Africa and Namibia

(and some implications for Australian soil science)

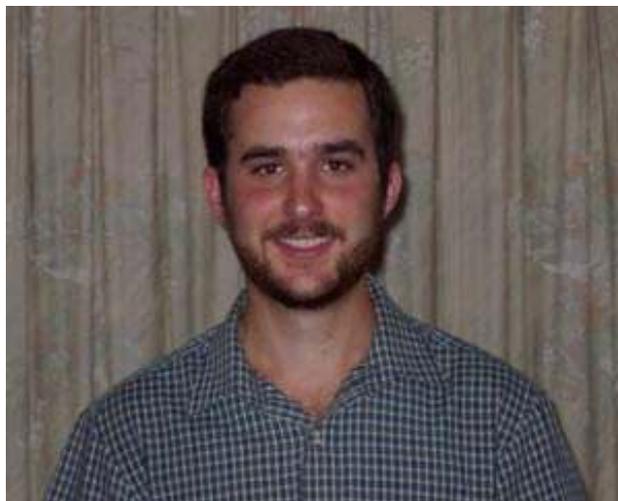
Earlier this year I participated in a fascinating soils tour of the arid regions of South Africa and Namibia. As well as gaining valuable experience in arid soils and geomorphology, I was also made aware of some issues pertinent to the broader Australian soil science community. The tour, held from 24 January to 2 February, was jointly organised by the IUSS Working Group on World Reference Base and the Soil Science Society of South African (SSSSA), for whom it was part of a 50th year anniversary celebration. There were 30 participants in total, made up of 12 local scientists and 18 from abroad (Europe, USA, Russia and elsewhere).

The tour started from the beautiful city of Capetown and passed up through a picturesque wine growing region before reaching the stark arid landscapes of western Namibia. The barren rugged mountains and gorges together with vast shifting sand dunes made for eerie but spectacular scenery. The soils were typically sandy and frequently sodic or saline. There were ubiquitous silica duripans that we call red-brown hardpans and the South Africans call “dorbank”. Silcrete, calcrete, gypsum and laterite horizons were also widespread. The soils and landscapes were similar to much of arid Australia, due in part to their similar geologic and climatic histories. One of the primary aims of the tour was to apply the new World Reference Base (WRB) soil classification scheme to the soils of the region. For each profile visited, classifications were also given in Soil Taxonomy, the South African scheme and usually the Australian Soil Classification scheme (by me!). There was never any shortage of serious pedologic discussion at any site, with perspectives being drawn from a wide range of experience.

Many members of the WRB Working Group were somewhat critical of Australian soil scientists for not contributing more actively in the development of the WRB, although the input of a couple of people was acknowledged. They were critical that we had not done more to relate Australian soils to existing world schemes, accusing us of being rather “isolationist”. There was a concern that Australia might remain a “blank on the map” in the upcoming 1:1M world soil and terrain map (SOTER), planned for release in 2006. It was noted that developed nations such as ours receive no direct assistance from the UN in this matter – its entirely up to us! There was, however, a genuine interest in Australian soils by the Working Group and a real desire to witness our soils first hand on some formal soils tours in the near future. On the matter of tours, it was evident that a high level of analytical data, including laboratory analyses, is expected for each and every profile visited. This was the one area of complaint directed to our South African hosts, despite reasonable data being regularly provided. Given that Australia has the honour of hosting the 2010 World Congress of Soil Science, it would seem prudent that we start to seriously plan suitable tours and acquire the necessary profile analyses. It would also appear necessary to increase our efforts in the area of relating our soils to the new international soil classification scheme.

Jon Gray: ASSSI NSW Branch, Sydney

NEW MEMBER Profile



Hello to all members of ASSSI. My name is Iain Gibson and I live in the Redlands area of South East Queensland surrounded by horticulture and floriculture. I am currently studying for the Bachelor of Agricultural Science degree, majoring in plant and soil science. My main interests are in soil fertility and plant nutrition. My 4th year project is looking at the response of plants to localized potassium supply by proliferation. I look forward to my association with ASSSI.

Below: Examination of a soil profile pit in southern (Photo: Jonathan Gray)



Below: Sand dunes in western Namibia (Photo: Jonathan Gray)



Victorian Branch of ASSSI Initiatives

Consider Nominating

The Victorian branch of ASSSI offers two recurring awards for students. A brief summary of the awards is given below. Nominations for these awards should be sent to the Victorian branch secretary, Alice Melland, Dept. Primary Industries, RMB 2460, Hazeldean Road, ELLINBANK Vic 3821 or Alice.Melland@nre.vic.gov.au. More information is available from the branch's website: <http://amorphous.agfor.unimelb.edu.au/asssi-vic/>

The Frank Gibbons Award

This award commemorates the life and career of Frank Gibbons, who was a pedologist with the former Victorian Soil Conservation Authority. The award is made annually to a student attending a Victorian or Tasmanian tertiary institution for an essay of 2000–5000 words. The author of the best essay—judged on scientific merit, relevance to soil science and the effectiveness in communicating research to a scientific audience—will receive a certificate, two years' membership to ASSSI and \$250.

Essays should be nominated by the student's supervisor. Nominations close on 1 October each year.

Conference Assistance for Postgraduate Students

Postgraduate students, who have been members of ASSSI (Victorian branch) for at least 12 months and who have not already received this grant, are eligible to apply for financial assistance to attend a local or international conference. Grants can be up to \$250 for local and \$1000 for international conferences.

Applications can be received at any time but awards will only be made on 1 March and 1 September each year.

RAISING THE PROFILE OF SOIL

Suggestions from the FutureSoils Conference in Perth, 2002

Continued from Page 7

63. Have a 'have-your-soil-analysed-today' day. Not just biology, but also chemical and physical components.
64. Soil-Aid national soils Concert
65. Presentation of soil summary status to national and state governments
66. Get 'Nick Clod' onto national TV. Soil cartoon characters used to explain soil concepts in rural WA.
67. Soil scientists could have stalls at events such as "Farmfest" (Qld) where they could do demonstrations and show slides etc
68. School visits - not only teaching students the importance of soil health but also emphasising that soil science can be an interesting and exciting topic.
69. Demonstrations at agricultural shows including films/slide shows highlighting the benefits of good management practices
70. School visits, specially at Grade 10+ level,. Include soil in the school curricula
71. Ensure land management for increased soil fertility is included in environmental education
72. Field Day: Urban soil and environment impacts
73. Computer simulation of how soil and plant processes interact in terms of ecosystem processes and services
74. Publicise good news stories of soil (i.e. not bad news doom and gloom)
75. Relate soil to everyday issues of suburbia

OUT OF THE WEST

Historical Perspectives on the Western Division

by Dick Condon

The book I have been working on over the last several years has been published and was launched by the Premier of New South Wales, Mr. Bob Carr, at Cobar on Monday 26th. August, 2002. The Premier's Office has also contributed \$10,000 towards publication costs. It will be available from the RMAP office at Wentworth. The Rangelands Management Action Program (RMAP) office at Wentworth is handling mail distribution, that Program having also contributed funds towards publication — as have NSW Farmers and their WD Council and several other people and organisations that you will find listed in the Acknowledgements. The price has been set at \$35 (incl. GST) plus \$8 for postage and handling. If you would like a copy autographed by the author for an extra \$5, you may indicate this on the cut-off order form below and attach your cheque for the appropriate amount.

The book is comprised of three Parts covering the periods to 1900, 1901 to 1945, and 1946 to the 1990s — and has chapters on the following themes running through each Part :— The Indigenous People ; Land Settlement and Administration; The Pastoral Industry ; Water Use; Conservation and Irrigation; Dryland Farming; Land Condition; Wild Dogs and Border Fences

The book is primarily about what has happened to the landscapes in the period since early settlement as determined by land settlement, the pastoral industry, dryland farming and water use and conservation and irrigation — and the climate. There was unbelievable devastation in the very dry and very windy (and very rabbit-ridden) period between 1895 and 1945. But this devastation has largely recovered as a consequence of wet periods in the 1950s and 1970s encouraging regeneration of seriously eroded surfaces, in association with subsequent good management by government and the landholders, with the help of improving technology in many fields.

Having spent 50 years working in the outback of NSW, I have written a book on the history of the region (The Western Division), but particularly the history of what has happened to the land as a consequence of European settlement. This has developed out of a career, firstly in soil conservation in the region, later in land administration of the region, and finally as a consultant in rangeland management — in that region and elsewhere.

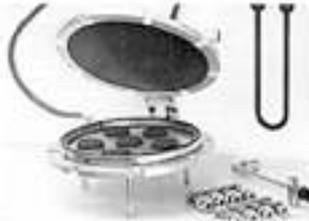
For soils people there is an interesting account of the of the processes involved in wind (and water) erosion and the recovery processes to a stable well-vegetated surface. Where there has been a lot of sand in the original profile, it gets piled into huge silty-clayey hummocks which in the recovery process, then supply sand and silt back on to the eroded surface for the wind and surface flow to redistribute around plant colonisers, with the new surface often being re-built, over a period of several years, to over 30 cms depth over large areas in a process which is virtually the reverse of the erosion process.

The book has been written for the landholders and especially the school-children of the region so that they can understand what has happened to the land, and that things are nowhere as bad as the media, and some high profile scientists, with little or no knowledge of soils and land management are often wont to proclaim.

Dick Condo is a foundation member of the NSW Branch of ASSSI — so long ago that he has forgotten when it was!!

His book can be ordered by contacting him at
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The University of Sydney NSW

Ms. Malem McLeod
NSW Agriculture
TAMWORTH NSW

Ms. Nicole Simons
Dept. Land & Water Conservation
Soil Information Systems Branch
PARRAMATTA NSW

Mr. Simon Spiers
Cotton CRC/Thr University of Sydney
School of Land, Water & Crop Sciences
The University of Sydney NSW

Ms. Christine Juergensen
Dept. Natural Resources & Mines
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Ms. Ashwin Kumar
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Ms. Jane Rigg
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These electronic, searchable indices are available in the following file formats: Procite 5 bibliographic database; Access; Excel; Word (both Author and Subject listings); Acrobat and Tab-delimited text suitable for import into most bibliographic systems. *Prices include post & packing: AJSR A\$47 (US\$29) ea.*

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Letter to the Editor

I write with reference to the poster entitled 'Predicting Soil Distribution' which was circulated with the last edition of 'Profile' and which I understand was developed with funding support from ASSSI. One would certainly not wish to criticise the authors of the poster for their endeavour in producing what was presumably intended as a useful tool; indeed, they deserve our congratulations. But I have to say that the final result does not reflect all that well on Soil Science as a profession, or on ASSSI as a professional body, and I am concerned that ASSSI funds have been spent on such a project. Let me explain why:

Many members would know that I am interested in viticulture, and have field sites in the Coonawarra. I thought it would be interesting to see what the poster had to say about the soils I have been working on. This turned out to be nigh-on impossible. My first problem arose with the first instruction: "Use the charts below to predict likely soil properties at a site in temperate climates and non-ancient landscapes in Australia". Well the Coonawarra certainly qualifies as temperate, but what about non-ancient? I'm not a geologist, but it is well known that the formation of soils and carbonate layers in the Coonawarra is geologically ancient - as indeed is most of Australia with the exception of active floodplains. This raises two questions: First, how old is "ancient"?; and second, which locations in Australia is the poster is applicable to? In the absence of any guiding information and not wanting to give up at this stage, I decided to press on to 'Step 1' at which point I had to choose between "Well Drained Sites" for "mid and upper slopes" and "Imperfectly Drained Sites" for "footslopes and valley floors". As anyone who has been there will know, the Coonawarra is almost flat, and one would be hard pushed to argue that it is either on mid or upper slopes, or indeed on footslopes or in a valley floor. Perhaps it is at too ancient a location for the poster to help me? As stated, there is no information on the poster to assist with the definition of "ancient". The information under the heading 'topography' was of little help either, since the Coonawarra (which, as stated, is essentially flat) has both well drained (the so-called 'Terra Rossa') and poorly drained ('black groundwater rendzina') soils. Thus, I proceeded to Step 2 ("Determine parent material category") on the basis that I would need to do everything else twice.

Coonawarra is underlain by limestone which qualifies it for the 'calcareous' category (Table 1) - this I could be certain of given the information provided. Noting that I was lucky that my parent material is not silica-based, which would have required me to stop at that point, I kept going. No I did not! - The calcareous parent material category does not appear on either the well-drained or imperfectly drained charts!

I decided to ignore this minor omission (perhaps the Coonawarra is indeed too ancient?!), and thought I may as well try to proceed to Step 3 as best I could and consider rainfall. Coonawarra has an annual rainfall of around 645 mm. So I looked up from the rainfall axis to see which categories of soils might correspond to such a rainfall regime with the idea that I could see whether any of the possibilities and their parent materials made sense. I knew that Terra Rossa was definitely neither a Tenosol, Kandosol nor Vertosol; could it be a Dermosol? According to the excellent "Key for identifying categories of vineyard soils in Australia" by Dave Maschmedt, Rob Fitzpatrick and Alf Cas, recently published by CSIRO Land and Water (Technical Report 30/02), the Australian vineyard soils that qualify as Dermosols are all "deep", yet in one vineyard that I have been working in, the soil is shallower than 40 cm in many places - which is hardly deep! In fact, this same soil key clearly identifies my Terra Rossa as a Calcarosol, yet the poster infers that this can not be so given the amount of rainfall in Coonawarra. On the other hand, Table 2 on the poster suggests that my Terra Tossa is indeed a Dermosol (presumably ignoring the rainfall criteria and the question as to how ancient the Coonawarra landscape is!). Confused, I decided not to bother working through the imperfectly drained chart...

Clearly this is unsatisfactory - admittedly, possibly due to inadequacy on the part of myself. Whatever, it raises a number of questions: First, who is the audience for this poster? The foregoing suggests that a lot of prior knowledge is required for it to be used, so it is presumably not intended as an education tool - or is it? Second, the title of the poster suggests that it is about predicting soil distribution, yet the first

Continued on Page 21

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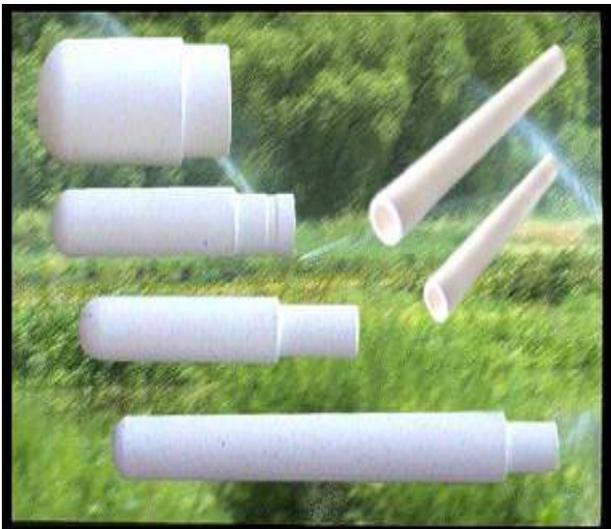
ASSSI Members will be able to subscribe to the Australian Journal of Soil Research via their 2003 ASSSI membership renewal. The cost will remain at \$80 for electronic and \$105 for paper, which is a discounted price for financial members of the society. If you have any queries please contact Linda Bennison ASSSI (Executive Officer) to take advantage of this offer.



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Letter to the Editor.... Continued from Page 18

instruction indicates that it is for predicting likely soil properties. As it turns out, there is almost no discussion of soil properties at all in the poster, so maybe it is not about predicting properties after all? What about distribution? Might I suggest that existing soil maps probably provide more immediately useable information about soil distribution than the material presented in the poster? And one might ask, in these days of digital data which allow us to store large amounts of (hopefully georeferenced) soil property information cheaply, whether acquired through direct survey, laboratory measurement or through some surrogate of one or both of these, is it not the actual soil properties that we need to know about more so than any of the other factors considered by the poster?

Overall, I would like to question the value of ASSSI sponsoring this poster, especially in view of the fact that it appears not to have been adequately peer reviewed or tested by its members. As stated, I acknowledge the effort that its authors have gone to in producing it, but at a time when ASSSI is trying to present a more professional image than we have done in the past, members may wish to think about this: If CPSS accreditation were to be awarded on the basis of this poster, what category would they assign to its authors (if any)?

Yours sincerely,
Rob Bramley, Adelaide

REPLY from the President of ASSSI.

Dr Rob Bramley's LETTER has opened discussion on the "Predicting Soil Distribution" Poster. Contrary to Dr Bramley's assertion, however, the Poster was peer-reviewed by several people in each ASSSI State Branch, and there was significant feedback offered to the authors of the Poster, particularly from people in NSW. Furthermore, Gray & Murphy's (2002) original peer-reviewed article, upon which the Poster was based, solicited feedback from readers particularly in relation to field verification to refine their model. Profile would appear to be an ideal venue for this feedback, and I hereby invite the authors of the Poster (and others) to respond in the next issue. Meanwhile, I offer the following comments in support of the Poster.

As Dr Bramley points out, the Poster is not perfect. Mind you, it was never touted as such, and Australia has a litany of imperfect and incomplete soil classifications. The authors specifically refer to warnings that their model "should be considered a guide only and be applied with caution for diagnostic and land management purposes. Any predictions should be checked in the field" (Gray & Murphy 2002). To use the Poster to predict the distribution of soils and their properties for commercial purposes would be silly, and Dr Bramley stated the obvious when he suggested there are better sources of information for such tasks. He appears to have missed the point that the Poster is intended as a teaching/learning tool to engender a greater understanding of soils and soil properties – it is NOT intended to be used commercially.

This Poster hangs outside my office at the University of Adelaide. Visiting students often remark that the Poster has helped them link soil-forming factors to the Australian Soil Classification (about which they are taught in different courses). Unsolicited comments from undergraduates like this suggest to me the Poster is having a positive impact and is therefore a useful teaching/learning tool. Posters are good at presenting complex ideas pictorially – by design, they must omit extensive text, which is intended to spawn interest and discussion at greater depth. By any measure, this Poster has been a success even if it is never re-printed in its current form again.

Reference to the term 'non-ancient' is not a big problem in the Poster – virtually all Australian soils are old, but it is fairly obvious to me the Poster uses 'ancient' in reference to materials altered over geological time (e.g. Laterites, Ferricretes, Silcrettes etc). The distribution of these hardened soils is widespread in Australia and is largely unaffected by recent soil forming factors, which is why the Poster does not attempt to deal with them.

Use of landscape characteristics in the Poster to suggest drainage status is also not a problem in the Poster – in all cases, landscape characteristics are used only as examples to identify whether or not the soil is predominantly wet. In both of Dr Bramley's Coonawarra examples, the drainage status is easy to identify using the Poster.

Continued on Page 23

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ASSSI admin fee	\$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00
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RAISING THE PROFILE OF SOIL

Suggestions from the FutureSoils Conference in Perth, 2002

continued from Page14

76. Soil is a fundamental like water. How do you raise awareness? Unfortunately, through its failure to perform its fundamental functions. Another analogy: the human body. We take it for granted and when something goes wrong, we go to the GP. We aren't all GPs and strangely that's what we are expecting land managers to be.

"To have a fundamental understanding of soil" - I suspect we are doomed to failure. Perhaps if soils were the new ground for terrorism then the funds and awareness would come!

77. Science show exhibitions

78. Rural schools presentations

79. Car stickers of soilhealth.com

80. Links to soilhealth.com website from farming retailers, suppliers etc

81. Use current environmental situations to get publicity. i.e. follow up on dust storms, pollution of waters etc by putting them in terms of soil management

82. Use the media - TV and radio

18th World Congress of Soil Science

2006

Philadelphia, USA

At the 16th World Congress of Soil Science, the U.S. delegation presented an invitation to the IUSS from the National Academy of Sciences to host the 18th World Congress of Soil Science in 2006. The invitation was accepted, and the U.S. National Committee for Soil Science, working with the Soil Science Society of America, has taken on the task of overseeing the organization of the Congress. The Congress to be held July 9-15, 2006, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, will have the theme Frontiers of Soil Science: Technology and the Information Age.

The first step was to nominate the President and Vice President of the IUSS, both Americans in accordance with the IUSS Statutes. Donald L. Sparks, University of Delaware, is IUSS President from 2002-2006. He is joined by Gary W. Petersen, Pennsylvania State University, who serves as Vice President. Sparks and Petersen proceeded to appoint Lee E. Sommers, Colorado State University, and Larry P. Wilding, Texas A&M University, as Congress Co-Chairs. The four serve as the Congress Executive Committee. Several subcommittees also help to form the Congress Organizing Committee. They are assisted in the planning of the congress by the IUSS officers (division and commission level), as well as associates who were appointed for each division to assist the U.S. division officers in the program planning. The official website for the congress is <http://www.18wcss.org/>.

Visit the IUSS WEBSITE

www.iuss.org

From Page 21

Reply to Letter to the Editor Continued.....

The exclusion of soils developed on parent materials that are calcareous, alluvial, organic or sesquioxide-based would appear to require some explanation by the authors, but I wouldn't be too concerned that the Calcarosol group doesn't reach quite far enough into the sub-humid rainfall category to include Dr Bramley's Coonawarra soil.

Dr Bramley's concerns about the Poster and our professional image should be allayed somewhat by the open discussion of the issues in Profile – this is a common and often fruitful practice in other professions, such as engineering.

Finally, Dr Bramley should be assured that while the previous Federal Council offered considerable encouragement and feedback on the Poster, ASSSI's financial contribution was quite modest (\$1000 for printing).

Reference:

Gray J, Murphy B 2002. Parent material and soil distribution in temperate Australia. *Natural Resource Management* 5(1), 2-12.

Cameron Grant.

Extracts from President's Report for ASSSI Federal Council Mtg 211

I'd like to thank Linda Bennison and current Federal Council for keeping things ticking along while I was on leave in January. It would be great if we could maintain the momentum of the previous FC and continue to raise awareness and interest in Australian soils and soil science.

I've compiled a table of contact details for the current FC below; while these details are also listed with other State Branch Executives in Profile, if you're anything like me, you need a special list at your finger tips – use the list below to set up your own ASSSI FC address book:

FC Position	Name	Phone	Email
President	Cameron Grant	(08) 8303 7404	cameron.grant@adelaide.edu
Vice-President	Neil Menzies	(07) 3365 2059	n.menzies@uq.edu.au
Secretary	Annie McNeill	(08) 8303 7879	ann.mcneill@adelaide.edu.au
Treasurer	Keith Lindbeck	(08) 9332 0671	lindbkya@ca.com.au
Profile Editor	Lyn Abbott	(08) 9380 2499	organic@agric.uwa.edu.au
NSW Branch Pres	Greg Chapman	(02) 4751 3700	gchapman@dlwc.nsw.gov.au
Riverina Branch Pres	John Thompson	(03) 5881 9906	john.Thompson@agric.nsw.gov.au
VIC Branch Pres	Aravind Surapaneni	(03) 5833 5223	aravind.surapaneni@nre.vic.gov.au
QLD Branch Pres	Mike Grundy	(07) 3896 9395	mike.grundy@nrm.qld.gov.au
WA Branch Pres	Andrew Harley	(08) 6389 0862	eeswa@eesi.biz
Executive Officer	Linda Bennison	(03) 5974 1758	asssi@bigpond.net.au
ACT Branch Pres	vacant		
SA Branch Pres	vacant		

IUSS Congress 2010:

I think it is premature to be nominating people for something that is 7 years away! I have therefore tried to contact Colin Chartres to find out exactly what sort of support he's looking for from ASSSI State Branches. He's o/s at present, but will contact me when he returns (April 7th) with more specific details. I'll report back at FC Mtg 212.

ASSSI membership in IUSS:

Dual billing issue for our o/s members should be dealt with now; Linda Bennison wrote letter for me to send to IUSS with a cheque + current membership list; we should attempt to offer separate fee structure for our o/s members, so they don't pay IUSS fees twice.

Membership:

Complaints about value for money:

There have been at least 2 complaints about the increase in fees to \$110pa, based mainly on comparison to other organizations. I would like to hear any views on this, but mine is that ASSSI offers quite a bit to its members at Federal level for \$110, including a quarterly Profile, biennial conferences, CPSS accreditation, and plenty of opportunity for professional development. Furthermore, we run an office with a professional Executive Officer, from whom we get excellent value – other societies do not do this – but if you pay peanuts, you get monkeys. The complaints about fees may relate more to variable Branch activities, which tend to ebb and flow depending on local circumstances. Nevertheless, there are opportunities to participate in Branch activities in other States.

I don't want to trivialize any complaints, so perhaps we need to equip Linda with some questions to ask members who are showing dissatisfaction with their membership in ASSSI, including "What do you want from the Society? What do other (cheaper) societies offer that ASSSI does not? Are you willing to participate in your Branch Executive?" This needs discussion.

Student participation in the 2004 Sydney Conference.

It was suggested that we offer a 1-year complementary Student Membership in ASSSI to all students who present a paper (oral or poster) for the first time (N.B. we won't excuse existing student members from paying just because they attend – they're already converted!) What does FC think?

Cameron Grant March 26th 2003.



ASSSI Federal Council

Minutes 210

Minutes of Federal Council Meeting 210; 31 January 2003, 1.30pm WST

The University of Western Australia

Opening: The meeting opened at 1.30 pm WST. Soil Science Building, Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences, The University of Western Australia

Attendance: Lyn Abbott (Hon Federal President), Keith Lindbeck (Hon Federal Treasurer), Linda Bennison (Executive Officer), Richard Harper (Hon Federal Secretary), Andrew Rate (WA), Anne McNeill (SA), Aravind Surapaneni (VIC), Graeme Tupper (NSW), Andrew Biggs (QLD).

Apologies: Cameron Grant (SA)

Business arising from minutes of Federal Council Meeting 209: Certificates to be forwarded to new Honorary Life Members. Events will be held during the year by the Branches.

Business arising from minutes of General Meeting (During Future Soils Conference): Dr Colin Chartres is seeking volunteers with the 2010 World Soils Congress. Branches to coordinate.

President's Report: Prof. Abbott thanked the present Federal Council for their support and wished the new Federal Council.

Executive Officer's Report: Ms Bennison has been working on subscriptions (all gone out), handbook and will now work on GST and accounts. Prof. Abbott congratulated Ms Bennison on the CPSS Handbook.

Secretary's Report: Dr Harper thanked Federal Council for the opportunity to participate in the activities of the Society and wished the new Federal Council every success.

Treasurer's Report: Financial statements for the last two years are being audited and will be published in the next edition of profile, along with the updated Constitution.

Profit from the Future Soils Conference were around \$20,000, accounts also being audited and will be published in Profile. Question from Dr Surapaneni asked what would happen to these funds. There is a special conference account which can be used as seed money for future conferences.

Short note to be inserted in Profile re the need for Branches to notify upcoming field trips for insurance purposes.

Mr Lindbeck suggested that signatories for the accounts be Prof. Abbott, Dr Rate and himself, for the tenure of the new Federal Council. This to be confirmed with Dr Grant.

\Change to Constitution re what happens with non-financial members will be drafted and circulated prior to the next FC meeting.

Profile Editor's Report: Profile 133 will be published 15 March. Now no limit on the number of pages due to electronic circulation. Question re library copies – list of these will be circulated to Federal Council members. Publication of Branch reports to Federal Council in Profile. Federal Secretary to produce a list of headings for reporting.

Branch President's Reports

Victorian Branch Dr John Williamson's "Leeper Lecture" notes are on the web. 2003 Leeper lecturer will be finalized soon. Tasmanian Field trip in March. Keith Lindbeck - trip is being organized by Victorian Branch.

South Australian Branch New Branch President to be elected soon.

Western Australia Branch WA Branch Executive changing over. Dr Rate thanked the Federal Council for opportunity to be involved.

General Business Election of New Federal Executive

New Executive is Dr Cameron Grant (President), A/Prof. Neal Menzies (Vice President), Dr Annie McNeill (Secretary) and Mr Keith Lindbeck (Treasurer). There were single nominations for each position, thus an election was not required.

Survey on ASSSI Conferences

Dr Lisa Lobrey de Bruyn undertook a survey at the Future Soils Conference on members participation in conferences. Report will be emailed to members. Survey was part of a broader study being undertaken by Dr Lobrey de Bruyn. Now requests to circulate this to the whole membership. Questions about the aim of the study. Dr Lobrey de Bruyn will be asked to clarify the aims of the study. Decision to be made by the new President.

CPSS Web-site

Ms Bennison has liaised with Dr Yates. Restriction of access after 3 months of membership lapsing (FC 209). Need to do this to provide advantage to members. Some technical issues here. Both ASSSI and CPSS sites will be on same server.

Joint ASSSI/NZSSS Conference 2004

In progress. Organizers need to have report on Future Soils Conference as soon as possible. Mr Lindbeck to do this.

ISCO 2004

Meeting with Queensland Museum – have asked for input into a soils display.

IUSS Congress 2010

Covered in President's report. This needs to be on agenda for FC 211 to identify these nominees.

Issue of IUSS Fees for overseas members – dual members with other Soil Societies pay IUS Fee twice. Motion from Prof. Abbott that IUSS fees will not be collected from overseas ASSSI Members who are members of their home country Soil Science Society, student members and retired members. IUSS Secretariat will be informed of this decision. Moved Prof. Abbott; Seconded Dr Harper. Passed unanimously. Action Dr Grant.

ASSSI Strategic Plan: Ongoing process.

ASSSI Medals & Awards Committee: Dr Grant will have to resign from this Committee now Federal President and organize replacement. Constitution suggests Hon Fed. Secretary. Action Dr Grant.

ASSSI PhD Award: Was decided to progress with this. Details in Profile. Three Financial or retired members needed for Committee. Call with nominations for this Committee via email. Closing date 14th March. Recommendation that this new Committee be codified in the Constitution. Action Dr Grant/Mr Lindbeck

Federal Council Meetings for 2003 all 1.30 WST

28 March; 30 May ; 25 July; 26 September; 28 November

Other business

First newsletter of Australian Soil Club (UWA/Kondinin Group) has been prepared and is on the Web.

Change-over to new Federal Executive

Prof. Abbott congratulated all new members and thanked again all members of Federal Council. Motion Dr Surapaneni thanking the outgoing Federal Executive for doing a wonderful job for the Society. Seconded Dr McNeill.

Close: Meeting closed at 2.37 pm WST.

Next Meeting Federal Council 211, 28 March 2003.

‘LEAFSE’ PROJECT: INTERNATIONAL STUDENT EXCHANGE - Masters programs between Australia and Europe “learning through exchange - agriculture, food systems and environment”

16 full scholarships are available for 6 months exchange for Australian students to study in Europe in 2004. 20scholarships will be available in 2005. Participating univerrsites: Page 27



CPSS Update

Linda Bennison

The first E-Bulletin (April 2003) for CPSS has been circulated to members. The E-Bulletin will be used to keep members up to date of changes and progress with the CPSS Accreditation Scheme.

How the Scheme will operate.

All members of the Australian Society of Soil Science Inc who have an appropriate tertiary qualification relevant to soil science or are engaged in the scientific study of the soil are eligible to join the Certified Professional Soil Scientist Scheme. Entry is initially to Stage 1, the Professional Soil Scientist, and that you satisfy the accreditation requirements for this stage, and have paid the accreditation fee on the ASSSI subscription renewal notice. To maintain your accreditation you must supply evidence of on-going professional development. This can be done electronically in 2003 and the requirement is for an average of 50 hours annually, with the ability to carry-over up to 50 hours if you have excess hours that were approved. Validation of the Ongoing Professional Development record by a colleague is required and 20% of members will be audited annually. To progress to either Stage 2, the Experienced Professional or Stage 3, the Leading Professional, members must follow the instructions provided in Part Two of the 2003 Accreditation Handbook and Guidelines. The Accreditation Board will assess all applications quarterly and either approve or advise applicants of what action they must take to gain accreditation at stages 1, 2 or 3.

New members to the CPSS scheme.

Many new members have paid their subscription fee of \$200. All new members will be required to send in an electronic Ongoing Professional Development Diary proving that 50 hours of professional development has been undertaken. It is important to understand that the hours claimed are for professional development, not everyday tasks. If a new skill is being gained an activity may be considered, but it is important to understand and maintain the spirit of the scheme – professional development.

The Accreditation Board

The Accreditation Board provides peer review of the activities and responsibilities of soil scientists who are members of the Scheme or are applicants. Members for 2003 include Prof. Robert E White, The University of Melbourne (Chair), Mr. Rick Morse, Morse McVey and Associates, Dr Robert Fitzpatrick of CSIRO Land and Water and Mr. Dennis Toohey, Dennis Toohey and Associates (Australian Institute of Agricultural Science and Technology representative). The Board will convene in person once a year and during the rest of the year will work electronically or by teleconferencing to assess the application forms and OPD diaries of members. An appeals process is on page 15 of the 2003 Accreditation Handbook and Guidelines.

‘LEAFSE’ Exchange Program *(Continued from page 26)*

You must enrol in a Masters program at one of 4 Australian Universities

University of Queensland

University of New England

University of Western Sydney

University of Western Australia

KVL University, Denmark

Kassel University, Germany

University of Wales

University of Wageningen, The Netherlands

See Website www.leafse.kvl.dk

Applications for 2004 Exchange Scholarships close on 15th June, 2003

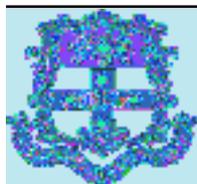
RAISING THE PROFILE OF SOIL

Suggestions from the FutureSoils Conference in Perth, 2002

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- | | |
|---|--|
| 83. Activity interest groups | 84. Seminars |
| 85. Community involvement | 86. Education/school students activities |
| 87. Conferences | 88. Fundraising |
| 89. Awareness survey | |
| 90. Demonstrate how sandy soils leach nutrients easily and how this is increased by overwatering. | |
| 91. Demonstrate how overwatering can be detrimental to plant growth | |
| 92. Series of seminars on soil and greenhouse gases | |
| 93. Simple lab experiments developed for high schools examining soil biology on the International Day of the Soil | |
| 94. promotion of good land use techniques | |
| 95. Shock tactics - pictures of dust storms | |
| 96. Hands-on education | 97. Use celebrities |
| 98. Collaborative research | 99. TV/Radio advertisements |
| 100. Coordinate inter-minesite communication re topsoil handling effects | |

to be continued in Profile 134



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Faculty of Rural Management, Orange

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EOI are invited from suitably qualified individuals/organisations to collaborate with Faculty staff in the writing of a distance learning support package covering with the applied aspects of sustainable soil management. The package will form the teaching materials of the subject Sustainable Soil Management which is offered in the Faculty's postgraduate coursework programs in sustainable agriculture.

For further information on EOI specifications and queries, contact Dennis Hodgkin, Snr Lecturer in Land Management, on (02)63605521, dhodgkin@orange.usyd.edu.au

A completion date will be negotiated with the successful tenderer, but must be no later than August 2003.

EOI should include personal details, qualifications, work experience, and the names, addresses, fax numbers and e-mail details, of two referees should be forwarded to: Personnel Officer, The University of Sydney, Faculty of Rural Management, P.O. Box 883, ORANGE N.S.W. 2800

Closing: 30 April 2003

The University is a non-smoking workplace and is committed to the policies and principles of equal employment opportunity and cultural diversity. The University reserves the right not to proceed with any appointment for financial or other reasons.

See <http://www.usyd.edu.au>

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www.publish.csiro.au/journal/ajsr/index.html

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CONFERENCES

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

July 2003 International Soil Tillage Research Organisation, Queensland
Tel (07) 5460 1354 Fax (07) 5460 1367 j.tullberg@mailbox.uq.edu.au

February 3-28, 2004 International Conference on Sustainable Management of
Sodic Lands, Lucknow, India. Contact Dr D.V. Yadav email:dvylucknow@rediffmail.com

2004 26 Sept - 1 Oct ISCO International Conference. Brisbane www.isco2004.org

December 2004 ASSSI/NZSSS Soils Conference, Sydney

July 2010 World Congress of Soil Science, Brisbane

APAI PhD Scholarship on Phosphorus Management in Potato Soils

A three-year APAI PhD scholarship (valued at \$23,294 tax free per year) is available in the School of Resources, Environment and Society, ANU to work on a project titled, "Cover crops that decrease phosphorus (P) transport from agricultural soils by increasing the efficiency of P fertiliser application". It is intended that the project start early 2003.

Summary of project

The aim of this project is to develop cover crop practices for the heavily fertilised potato cropping soils of the Robertson district that will minimise erosion and runoff of water potentially rich in phosphorus (P), thereby resulting in significant improvements in the environmental management of this sensitive catchment area. The cover crops will: (i) improve infiltration, decrease erosion, and off-site transport of P; (ii) increase access to accumulated soil P, making it available to a subsequent potato crop, thus decreasing the P loading of the soil; and (iii) have a biofumigation effect that will reduce the use of soil fumigants.

The supervisors will be Dr. Richard Greene (SRES, ANU) and Dr. Peter Hocking (CSIRO Plant Industry, Canberra). The project has excellent funding from the Industry Partners, who are the Robertson and District Potato Advancement and Landcare Association Inc. (RDPA&LA) and the Sydney Catchment Authority (SCA).

Intending students with first class honours or upper second class honours and with an appropriate background in Resource and Environmental Management, and/or Environmental Chemistry, should contact:

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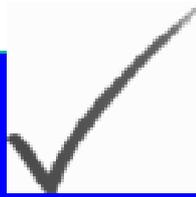
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