

## ASSSI Federal Council meets regularly by teleconference



**ASSSI Vice President, Associate Professor Neal Menzies (QLD) and Victoria Branch President Aravind Surapaneni were in Perth during the most recent ASSSI Federal Council Teleconference**

Federal Council Meetings of ASSSI are held bimonthly by teleconference. The most recent meeting was held when a number of Council Members were at conferences in Perth. Federal Vice President Neal Menzies and Victorian President, Aravind Surapaneni joined Newsletter Editor Lyn Abbott and Treasurer Keith Lindbeck at the University of Western Australia to dial into the teleconference with other council members and the Executive Officer at their home-bases across Australia. The teleconferences allow Council Members to communicate directly to Federal Executive on issues of relevance to members in all Branches and to discuss important issues such as the need to change the ASSSI constitution in response to changes in the Incorporation legislation.

Profile

**AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY OF SOIL SCIENCE INC.**

ARBN 080 783 106  
 ABN 96 080 783 106

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

**The ASSSI is committed to:**

Advancing soil science  
 Providing a link between soil scientists and members of kindred bodies within Australia and 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, subscriptions, queries and address changes contact Linda Bennison, ASSSI executive officer on telephone (03) 5974 1758, facimile (03) 5974 11411, email [asssi@bigpond.net.au](mailto:asssi@bigpond.net.au)

**ASSSI WEBSITE**

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

**PROFILE**

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**2003 Profile Deadlines**

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 email to [organic@agric.uwa.edu.au](mailto:organic@agric.uwa.edu.au)

**Advertisements**

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

All contributions are welcome, text preferably by email.

Please send to the editor for 2003 Lyn Abbott, School of Earth and Geographical Sciences (Soil Science), The University of Western Australia, Crawley WA 6009

Fax 08 9380 1050 Email - [organic@agric.uwa.edu.au](mailto:organic@agric.uwa.edu.au)

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## *From the ASSSI President*

### **Cameron Grant**

Our Federal Council consists of an elected Executive (president, vice president, secretary, treasurer and *Profile* editor), plus all the Branch-presidents (names listed at end of *Profile*) and our Executive Officer. We meet by tele-conference every second month to address the business of the Society, and between meetings there is an enormous amount to deal with. On behalf of the Society, I want to take this opportunity to thank our Honorary Treasurer, Mr Keith Lindbeck, for his recent hard work addressing the way in which our Society conducts its corporate affairs. His advice suggests we need to make significant changes to the ASSSI Constitution to ensure we continue to operate within the current law. Implications for our current structure (i.e. Federal + Branches) have yet to be sorted out, but the Membership will be consulted when specific recommendations come to hand.

ASSSI continues to take opportunities to raise the profile of soil science in the Australian community, particularly through the CPSS. For example, we receive an increasing number of requests to contribute to professional accreditation schemes across Australia, including the new *Code of Practice for Soil Surveyors* (SA Dept of Water, Land & Biodiversity Conservation), and the *National Accreditation Scheme for Advisors & Consultants in Agriculture, Natural Resource Management & Other Related Sectors*. We have also recently been invited to make a submission to the House of Representatives *Inquiry into the Coordination of Science to Combat the Nation's Salinity Problem*. These sorts of activities highlight the relevance of soil science to mainstream Australian issues and the effectiveness of our Society in addressing them. I want to thank those who are making big contributions on our behalf, particularly the CPSS Board: Chair of Board, Professor Bob White (University of Melbourne), Dr Rob Fitzpatrick (CSIRO Adelaide), Mr Rick Morse (Morse McVey & Assoc. Pty. Ltd.), Mr Dennis Toohey (retiring AIAST representative) and Mr Graham Price (proxy AIAST representative). The broad range of accreditation issues this Board currently deals with is hair-raising, and they deserve our admiration and support as the CPSS scheme gains momentum.

Finally, while this may seem years away, Australia will host the 2010 World Congress of the International Union of Soil Science. There will be a tremendous amount of preparation for this, but we must first organize an IUSS-2010 Executive to take overall responsibility before the end of 2003. This will enable the President-elect to participate in relevant meetings in early 2004 to be held in the USA. I have issued a call for nominations for the IUSS president elsewhere in this issue of *Profile* (Page 5), so I would ask you to consider potential nominees and approach them as soon as possible.



## *From the Editor*

### **Lyn Abbott**

Many thanks for all the material that is being submitted for *Profile*. We are maintaining 36 pages now, with a lot of information from across Australia. Please submit articles for the December issue (*Profile* 136) as soon as possible so that it can be prepared at the end of December as I will be in Copenhagen helping to teach an introductory unit for the EU-Australia LEAFSE Postgraduate Exchange students in January. 18 Australian participants will take part this year, spending 6 months at one of 4 European universities (in Denmark, Germany, Wales and The Netherlands). We hope to hear from some of these students in *Profile* next year.



Correction to caption in *Profile* 134:

This is Geoff Beecher examining soil at a Riverina Branch field day (I apologise for the previous mistake)

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# *IUSS Secretary General, Prof Stephen Nortcliff*

## Notes from the north!

During the summer I had the pleasure of meeting your Executive Officer Linda Bennison who was visiting the northern hemisphere on a Churchill Scholarship. It was a great opportunity to meet face to face and chat about matters 'soil science'. I would also like to thank her for the visit and report that the good Australian wine she brought was very much appreciated at the Nortcliff household!



Linda explained to me that there is still some confusion over the changes from the individual membership of International Soil Science Society to the National Membership of the International Union of Soil Sciences and asked me to try to clear up the confusion. Well here goes!

In the past if you wished to be a member of ISSS you paid a fee individually and in return you were a member of ISSS, could attend the World Congress of Soil Science, vote in elections and additionally you received individual copies of the ISSS Bulletin (although having just printed a shorter run of IUSS Bulletins I do not understand how this was done for \$5 without substantial subsidy from Austria the base of Winfried Blum). If you were a national member in more than one country you could choose where you paid your ISSS membership; for example as a member in the UK and USA I chose to pay my ISSS membership via BSSS in the UK. From the end of 2002 this has changed (in some countries the change was made earlier). There are no longer individual subscriptions, membership is through the National Bodies (in your case the Australian Society of Soil Science Inc). The National Bodies pay (in your case) \$US5 on behalf of each of their members. How the National Bodies raise the \$5 is to be decided locally. Some national Bodies (e.g. USA and Germany) have persuaded their National Science Academies to pay the membership on behalf of the National Soil Science Society, in other cases the National Soil Science Society has adjusted their membership fees to take account of the need to make these payments on behalf of their membership. The membership fee of \$5 per person is for the relatively rich countries, there is an intermediate rate of \$3 per member and a lower rate of \$1 per member for poorer countries. If your National Society (or the National Academy) pays the dues in respect of its members you are a member of IUSS and have the right to participate fully in its activities. With the membership increase from between 5 and 9 thousand to well over 45 thousand we shall not be printing individual copies of the Bulletin, but will be sending electronic versions to National Bodies, and in addition the Bulletins and many other items of information are available on the IUSS website ([www.iuss.org](http://www.iuss.org)).

These changes in membership are coupled with the changes in the Scientific Structure I outlined in June and the changes we are proposing to the Statutes and Bye-Laws. These changes will be discussed at the Inter Congress Meeting of IUSS Council which will take place in Philadelphia in late April 2004. This meeting will in addition plan the programme for the 18<sup>th</sup> World Congress in 2006 and begin discussions about the plans for the 2010 19<sup>th</sup> Congress in Queensland! By the time we meet in Queensland these changes will seem like history and I hope that we are by then focusing on the aims of the Union which can be broadly stated as 'Promoting the study and understanding of soils and soil processes, to ensure that the soil resource is used sustainably and not degraded or destroyed.

I look forward to seeing some of you in Philadelphia next April, and of course you are welcome to visit me in Reading.

Stephen Nortcliff  
Secretary General IUSS,  
Department of Soil Science,  
The University of Reading,  
Reading RG6 6DW  
United Kingdom.

**BOOKS for Indonesia** Do you have any spare soil science books or other material that you would like to donate to Pattimura University in Ambon in Indonesia? The Soil Science Department there has had to rebuild its resources following civil unrest. Please contact Rafael Osok who is finishing his PhD at the University of Tasmania. [rosok@postoffice.utas.edu.au](mailto:rosok@postoffice.utas.edu.au)

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# IUSS Election: Nomination Form

We nominate \_\_\_\_\_  
for election to the position of **President / Vice-president** (circle intended position, delete the other) of the International Union of Soil Science, IUSS, for the 19<sup>th</sup> World Congress of Soil Science to be held in Australia in 2010.

Nominator (must be financial member of ASSSI):

Printed name \_\_\_\_\_; signature \_\_\_\_\_

Contact details: \_\_\_\_\_

Secunder (must be financial member of ASSSI):

Printed name \_\_\_\_\_; signature \_\_\_\_\_

Contact details: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I agree to be nominated for the position of **President / Vice-president** (please circle intended position, delete the other) of the International Union of Soil Science, IUSS, and I understand that, if elected, I will assume the role of President-elect at the inter-Congress Meeting of IUSS in Philadelphia, April 2004 (and be inaugurated at the 18<sup>th</sup> WCSS in 2006).

Nominee (must be financial member of ASSSI):

Printed name \_\_\_\_\_; signature \_\_\_\_\_

Contact details: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Submit completed nomination form by COB Wednesday November 12<sup>th</sup> 2003 to:

Ms Linda Bennison, Executive Officer  
Australian Society of Soil Science Inc.  
PO Box 525 Mornington, VIC 3931.

THE EMAIL ADDRESS  
FOR  
ASSSI Executive Officer  
Linda Bennison  
is  
asssi@bigpond.net.au  
ASSSI Website is  
www.asssi.asn.au

The home page for AJSR is  
[http://www.publish.csiro.au/  
journals/ajsr/index.cfm](http://www.publish.csiro.au/journals/ajsr/index.cfm)  
the contents page can be  
viewed at  
[http://www.publish.csiro.au/  
journals/ajsr/contents.cfm](http://www.publish.csiro.au/journals/ajsr/contents.cfm)

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## *Executive Officer's recent Churchill Fellowship*

In July and August I traveled overseas for six weeks on a Churchill Fellowship looking at different not for profit groups, their structure and *modus operandi*. My thanks to the Australian Society of Soil Science Executive for their support and recognition of the Fellowship, to the ASSSI members for their patience and understanding during my absence and finally to Debbie and David who maintained the federal office in July and August. The Fellowship was financed by the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust, which supplied a generous daily living allowance and air travel.

In the United Kingdom I met with Prof. Stephen Nortcliff, Secretary General of the IUSS who is based at The University of Reading. My meeting with Dr. Nortcliff was essentially on administrative matters relating to ASSSI and IUSS. At the international level, IUSS is tightening up the administration and improving the communication between its members. An obvious example being the IUSS web site at <http://www.iuss.org/>. If you haven't been lately, perhaps it's time to visit the site.

Good news for ASSSI members is that the IUSS fee is only collected from the 'home' society. Several ASSSI members expressed concern over multiple requests for payment of this levy with overseas soil societies.

On a more local level, the enthusiasm for the 19<sup>th</sup> World Congress of Soil Science at Brisbane in 2010 was encouraging. Depending on the Australian currency exchange rate in the future, 2010 could be a great opportunity to encourage soil scientists from developing countries to participate.

I later traveled to The Netherlands where I met Dr Alfred Hartemink, the Deputy Secretary-General of the IUSS who is based at the International Soil and Reference Information Centre in Wageningen. ISRIC was fascinating and a wonderful resource, has a great web site and worth a visit at <http://www.isric.nl/>.

Some of the take home messages I gained from the trip have been

- The need to encourage scientists from all disciplines to get involved with soil science
- Incentives to encourage younger scientists to attend conferences (we need to consider the cost of attendance for students)
- That societies must focus on providing value to members and direction to funding bodies, research and industry where relevant.
- The importance of providing regular meetings to allow the connection of people and conversation.
- The importance of transferring information via publications. Although the format for publications is changing with developments in electronic publishing the concept remains valid.
- Tackling services to members by identifying what we could be doing that we are not currently doing and what we are doing that we don't need to be doing. This needs to be based on fact and understanding, as membership, like most things in our current society, is a moving target.
- Finally the focus must encompass the needs of all tiers of membership, especially the needs of young professionals.

Since returning to Australia, I have been working though the 'In Tray' however the deadline for completing my Fellowship Report is looming. The Report will be submitted in late October and lodged on the Churchill Trust web site. Greater detail will be available in the Reort. If you would like further information on my Fellowship or Churchill Fellowships in general, please contact me.

Linda Bennison ASSSI Executive Officer

RIGHT: Deputy Secretary General of IUSS Dr Alfred Hartemink at the International Soil and Reference Information Centre in Wageningen, The Netherlands. Dr Hartemink recently visited Australia (See reports elsewhere)



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***ASSSI Executive Officer visit to  
IUSS Secretary General in UK &  
Deputy Secretary General in The Netherlands***



ABOVE: Secretary General of IUSS Professor Stephen Nortcliff talks with ASSSI Executive Officer, Linda Bennison about IUSS/ASSSI administrative matters including membership of IUSS and future directions of this international organization.

**International Soil  
and Reference  
Information Centre  
in Wageningen,  
The Netherlands**

**<http://www.isric.nl/>**

**NZSSS/ASSSI  
Conference**

**5-10 December 2004**

**[www.icms.com.au/supersoil](http://www.icms.com.au/supersoil)**

**@ The University of Sydney**

**See page 11**



# ASSSI Strategic Plan 2002-2006

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

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

**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

## 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

# Soil Water Sampling Lysimeters

ICT International Pty Ltd has a complete line of Soil Water Samplers for collecting in situ samples from both saturated and unsaturated soils for a variety of soil moisture monitoring work: for example soil fertility management, groundwater protection, vadose zone monitoring, sanitary landfills and areas using reclaimed or recycled water.



## Slim Tube Soil Water Sampler

Similar in size to a tensiometer and used for extracting pore liquid samples for soil fertility management in commercial and research applications.



## Pressure/Vacuum Soil Water Sampler

Widely used for vadose zone monitoring in environmental and pollution monitoring applications.



## Large Volume Sampler

Installed to 2 meters depth to extract pore liquid from soils irrigated with wastewater.



## Ultra Soil Water Sampler

Where samples are collected to detect concentrations of organic solutes or pesticides in the parts per billion range.



## Hi Pressure/Vacuum Soil Water Sampler

Rugged design permits the flow of water from the soil into the upper chamber inside the sampler when a vacuum is applied. Two stainless steel check valves protect the ceramic cup from over pressurisation or forcing the collected sample back into the soil.



## Soil Water Sampling Plate

Designed for use in areas of low suction for near surface sampling or sample recovery in larger volumes such as under soil columns in laboratory research. When suction values are at field capacity water moves in under gravity; at higher values a vacuum must be applied to collect samples.



DocRef: Ver1.1

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## *New Members of ASSSI*

### Welcome to ASSSI

Mr. James Cupitt  
The University of Sydney  
CURRANS HILL NSW

Mr Hendrik De Wet  
MEAG Soil Consultancy  
NORTHAM WA

Mr. Craig Fleming  
EA Systems Pty Ltd  
ARMIDALE NSW

Mr. Adam Lawer  
Environmental and Earth Sciences Pty Ltd  
ST KILDA VIC

Mr. Robert Quirk  
DURANBAH NSW

Mr. Nathan Robinson  
Department of Primary Industries  
BENDIGO VIC

Mr. Darren Rokesky  
Bennett Ground Technologies  
SUNNYBANK HILLS QLD

Ms Celina Smith  
Australian National University  
CANBERRA ACT

Mr Jason Reynolds  
University of New South Wales  
School of Biological, Earth and Environmental  
Sciences  
UNSW Sydney 2052

New members are invited to submit a brief outline of their interests for inclusion in the next edition of Profile (Due date: 15th December 2003)

Visit the NZSSS Website  
[www.nzsss.rsnz.nz](http://www.nzsss.rsnz.nz)

*Visit the*  
**IUSS**  
**WEBSITE**  
*www.iuss.org*

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

**Please send material**  
**for the next Profile as**  
**soon as possible.**

**Submissions after**  
**December 15th 2003**  
**will be kept until the**  
**March 2004 Issue**



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# ***SUPERSOIL Conference***

## **Australia & New Zealand Soils 2004 Conference**

### **5-9 December 2004**

#### **UPDATE**

Keynote speakers at the conference will include Prof Donald Sparks, USA (President, IUSS), Prof. Jon Bouma (Netherlands), Prof Robert Gilkes, Dr. Brent Clothier, and Ms. Rebecca Lines-Kelly.

The Conference will be held at the Eastern Avenue Complex, which is a state-of-the-art conference venue at the University of Sydney. Accommodation has been reserved for delegates at the University Village which is on the campus.

There will be opportunities for delegates to present oral and poster papers, which will be of full paper length, refereed and published in the official Conference Proceedings. There will be awards for “Best” papers, particularly for students and younger scientists. Top line Keynote Speakers will be a feature of the Conference.

The SuperSoil Conference first announcement has been printed and sent to members of the Australian and New Zealand Soil Science Societies. It is also being distributed to delegates at a variety of conferences, and it is available via the ASSSI, NZSSS and ICMS websites ([www.asssi.asn.au](http://www.asssi.asn.au), <http://nzsss.rsnz.nz>, [www.icms.com.au/supersoil](http://www.icms.com.au/supersoil)).

Expressions of interest and author registrations can be lodged at the SuperSoil website, and interested persons are urged to do so as soon as possible. Symposia topics are listed at the website.

Graeme Tupper, Convenor, SuperSoil ANZ Conference 2004,  
[graeme.tupper@agric.nsw.gov.au](mailto:graeme.tupper@agric.nsw.gov.au)

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## ***Advance Notice***

### ***Leeper Memorial Lecture***

#### ***5 pm 21 November 2003***

Kimpton Lecture Theatre, The University of Melbourne

## **What has soil got to do with water?**

### **Professor Robert White**

Institute of Land and Food Resources, The University of Melbourne

Soil and water are two of the most important natural resources on Earth. The fate of soil and water has determined the course of civilizations. Yet in the current publicity about environmental issues, and land degradation in particular, the relationship between these two components of ecosystems is often overlooked.

Paradoxically, Australia is a land of both too much and too little water. The means of understanding this paradox lie in a quantitative spatial analysis of the complex interactions between soil and water. But it is not enough to understand only the biophysical processes. Soil and water belong to and are used by people – individual landholders and communities, through agencies and governments. The use of soil and water is influenced as much by social and economic factors as it is by biophysical constraints. This lecture will outline a rational strategy for us to address soil and water problems in a continent that some say is in crisis with respect to these resources.

For more information, contact Aravind Surapaneni: (03) 5833 5222; [Aravind.Surapaneni@dpi.vic.gov.au](mailto:Aravind.Surapaneni@dpi.vic.gov.au)

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# *Soil Surveying Symposium*

## *in Victoria* by Kerry Greenwood

More than 100 people attended the soil surveying symposium held on 3 October 2003 at DPI, Tatura. The symposium was organised by David Burrow, Harold Adem and Bruce Cockroft on behalf of the Victorian branch of the ASSSI.

Scientists attending included consultants involved in commercial soil surveying, government soil surveyors and pedologists, university lecturers and researchers, and soil scientists from a range of other disciplines with, obviously, an interest in soil surveying and pedology.

The symposium was preceded by a less formal, half-day workshop (see separate article by David Rees). This workshop provided the opportunity for soil surveyors to present works-in-progress, discuss issues arising from their field work and compare pedological notes.

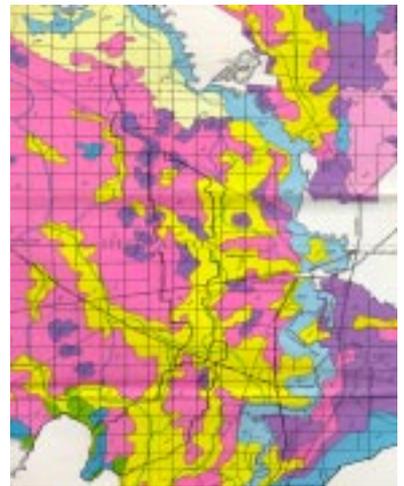
Highlights of the symposium, for me, included Ian Sargeant's talk about how the irrigated regions of northern Victoria were surveyed in the 1960's and 70's. With auger holes dug every 80 to 200 m apart, to a depth of at least 1.2 m, it's no wonder that the accuracy of the soil maps is very high.

Mark Imhof demonstrated recent developments in the Victorian Resources On-line website ([www.dpi.vic.gov/vro](http://www.dpi.vic.gov/vro)). This "live" demonstration showed how to access the soil and land survey directory, information on the history of soil surveying in Victoria, background information on gully and tunnel erosion and coastal acid sulfate soils, and lots more. The website even includes downloadable versions of the original soil survey reports for a number of irrigation regions. As these reports can be hard to obtain, I'm sure that internet access will be appreciated.

Neil McKenzie presented the final talk for the symposium. He described how our pre-computer age survey techniques can be updated using digital elevation models, and remote sensing. In particular, we need to measure the primary attributes, and the correlations with other more-easily measured data are not always good. In the future, the results of soil survey work will be "alive", rather than static, as new information is gathered and added or modified on-line.

I think all symposium delegates appreciated the opportunity to get together with other soil scientists from other work environments. Thank you to the organisers for arranging the symposium and ensuring it was a success.

Copies of the symposium proceedings "Soil Surveying in Agriculture: Current Practices and Future Directions" are available from the editors, David Burrow ([David.Burrow@dpi.vic.gov.au](mailto:David.Burrow@dpi.vic.gov.au)) and Aravind Surapaneni ([Aravind.Surapaneni@dpi.vic.gov.au](mailto:Aravind.Surapaneni@dpi.vic.gov.au)).



### **Delegates at the soil survey symposium held recently at Tatura.**



# Soil Surveying Workshop

by David Rees

The aims of the workshop were the chance to enhance communications between soil surveyors, landscape surveyors and other soil information providers and to identify some of the major issues facing soil surveyors and their clients.

There were over 25 enthusiastic participants for this afternoon session. The format consisted of a round table of identification and a feel for likes and dislikes in their professional lives (we didn't get around to musical tastes), followed by brief 5 minute presentations followed by discussion after each speaker.

Much of the discussion was concerned with large scale specific soil survey predominantly for viticulture by individual or small company consultants (Victoria, NSW and SA) with the occasional discussion on smaller scale broader issues dominated by public sector scientists from Victoria and NSW.

Our convener David Burrow concluded that the session could be summarised by:

- (i) Standards in soil survey, noting that a review lead by Harold Adem was underway and submissions were welcome. This topic included debate on accreditation, developing expertise for younger surveyors and some of the concerns about ethics, personal indemnity as well as technical standards.
- (ii) Role of EM surveys in soil survey. The consensus was that it was a tool and should not supplant soil pit assessments. This was scrupulously supported by Ken Bates, an EM operator.
- (iii) What is to be included in a soil survey. There was an enthusiastic presentation by consultant John Rasic that soil pits provided an opportunity to extract much valuable information, lost once they were filled in.
- (iv) Government Regulation. It was often stated that surveyors were employed because the landowner was compelled by some form of regulation! The surveyors did not feel totally rejected as they were often asked back. Ross Wall (Tatura) spoke on plans to review the soil survey requirements as part of irrigation developments which many thought were not flexible enough.

The workshop, while dominated by issues relating to irrigation in northern Victoria and southern NSW, was very informative and a great opportunity to meet and exchange views.



**The symposium was well-attended by past and current presidents of the Victorian branch of ASSSI. From L to R: Drs Stuart Boucher, Nick Uren, Austin Brown, Tony Weatherly and Aravind Surapaneni.**



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# *News from the Queensland Branch of ASSSI*

Topics being discussed by Queensland Branch members of ASSSI include Corporate Membership of ASSSI and Accreditation.

## **Corporate membership of ASSSI**

Given the current issues regarding incorporation of the society, it is perhaps timely to look at our membership structure. At present, we have 4 levels.

Ordinary \$110 Retired \$44 Student/overseas \$44 Honorary Life member complimentary

There are a number of options the society could consider to improve its membership numbers. These include:

- Corporate membership
- Recent graduate membership
- Affiliate membership

Some societies (e.g IPWEA) offer corporate memberships. Fees are often determined by the size of the corporate member. They receive newsletters etc, and an opportunity for a limited number of people to attend society events etc with full membership privileges.

I believe some societies offer discounted memberships for recent graduates i.e. membership fee ramps up incrementally from student to full over 5 years from graduation.

Affiliate membership could be offered for members who belong to “aligned societies”. In the US, the Agronomy, Soil Science and Crop Science Societies have an affiliation. Other examples exist e.g Institute of Engineers and Environmental Engineers Society, and IPWEA.

There are also a number of other membership options worth considering for society members. At present, the society grants Honorary Life membership. Another option may be Honorary Fellows (a lesser form of Honorary Life membership. I believe AIAST offers this. Is it the same as our Honorary Life Membership?

## **Accreditation – the bigger picture**

As we all know, the topic of accreditation always raises a great deal of debate. The Environment Institute of Australian and New Zealand (EIANZ <http://www.eia.asn.au/>) has recently raised the stakes. They have proposed a certification model (<http://www.eianz.org/pdf/EIANZCertificationPaper.pdf>) that is definitely worth the society investing some time in considering. There are many moves afoot in Australia regarding certification, and the trend appears to be towards compulsory accreditation, in particular for documents submitted to government e.g EIS. It may be a smart time for ASSSI to consider its accreditation in the larger scheme of things, and whether we wish to have it included in government policy.

Andrew Biggs, Qld Branch President

## *Notes on the July 2004 ISCO conference – Mike Grundy*

We have just been through the Call for Abstracts process and now enter a fairly busy phase of review and allocating them. We received 411 through the electronic lodgement process before it closed and a small number have been received since which we will feed into the system. This was extremely satisfying and the conference is clearly on track to get at least the attendance we are aiming for.

The next major event in the process is the registration brochure which is currently in preparation for release in November. People who had submitted abstracts will have been invited before then to submit a paper or poster.

We are actively pursuing further sponsors currently and talking to our existing sponsors about their involvement in the conference itself.

Finally, the tours are coming together and make a very attractive package – many thanks to those involved in the various states.

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# *News from the Victorial Branch of ASSSI*

## **Recent visit by Professor Peter Gregory**

Professor Peter Gregory, Vice-Chancellor (Research) at Reading University in the UK, visited Victoria in February 2003 as part of the Department of Primary Industries' Visiting Fellows Program. In the three weeks spent in Victoria, Prof. Gregory:

- Presented a keynote address at the 11th Australian Agronomy Conference
- Gave 4 formal seminars:
  - “Physical changes at the root:soil interface and consequences for resource acquisition”
  - “Studies of root herbivory by *Sitona* in pasture swards”
  - “Root growth, distribution, and use of resources in winter wheat crops”
  - “Root:soil interactions: utilising and adapting the soil environment”
- Visited DPI-Tatura, DPI-Rutherglen, DPI-Horsham, Birchip Cropping Group, and Melbourne University
- Interacted with about 140 people (either in a group or individually).

Prof. Gregory's visit also provided the catalyst for a research forum on soil health which brought together several scientists, included the internationally renowned Prof. Rainer Horn (who was in Australia from Germany as a visiting Fellow with CSIRO), Dr Doris Blaesing (industry representative from Serve-Ag), and four speakers from DPI. Prof. Gregory also chaired an all-day training workshop on modelling of root function. This workshop covered discussion on current understanding of principles of root growth & function, including drivers and constraints, the usefulness of soil physical measurements as surrogates for root growth, and ways of modelling root architecture and function. A number of people commented after this workshop, that it was the most useful day spent for a long time. Prof. Gregory's visit was extremely successful. Many scientists across DPI have commented on the usefulness of his visit. This success was in great measure due to the wide experience, breadth of knowledge, and easy manner of Prof. Gregory. The visit was hosted by Dr Peter Fisher from DPI Tatura.



The National Centre for Groundwater Management (NCGM) at UTS is recognised by the Federal Government through Land & Water Australia as a National Centre for Training, Research and Consultancy in Groundwater and Environmental Applications.

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- Waste Management and Groundwater
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- 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. Like to know more? For information and applications contact Professor Michael J Knight, Director, National Centre for Groundwater Management, UTS, PO Box 123, Broadway NSW 2007 Australia.

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

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# *News from the South Australian Branch of ASSSI*

Prepared by Cameron Grant, acting Branch Pres, SA

Various activities continue to chug along w/o an executive, including:

1. Fri September 5<sup>th</sup> 2003: Visit to Adelaide by Dr Alfred E Hartemink (Assistant Secretary General IUSS). University of Adelaide, Waite Campus.
  - a. He gave a seminar entitled: "Trends & developments in scientific publishing with an emphasis on soil science".
  - b. He inquired about how the Australian IUSS Executive was progressing – we need to act on this quickly, so the Executive can be represented at next April's meeting in Philadelphia.
  - c. Drinks & nibbles afterward, supplied by ASSSI-SA Branch.
2. Fri September 12<sup>th</sup> 2003: Joint Symposium with AIAST-SA Branch "Waste Not – Want Not: The Use of Waste Materials in Agriculture and Horticulture" Hawker Centre, Waite Campus.
  - Speakers primarily from ASSSI (Cameron Grant, Mike McLaughlin, Daryl Stevens, Jim Kelly, Cliff Hignett, but also some from industry and consultants: Bob Long (Jeffries Garden Soils), Katie Webster (Ecoresearch), Charles Ling (Flinders University).
  - Excellent day, with follow-up field trip planned for October 31<sup>st</sup> to visit sites involved in waste recycling on land.
3. Election of new Branch Executive:
  - Nominations have been received for President, Secretary, Treasurer, so an AGM will be called during October.
4. Lots of new postgraduate students starting PhDs at the University of Adelaide, so plenty of new ASSSI-student members coming in next month or so.

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## *News from the ASSSI Western Australian Branch*

A general meeting of the Western Australian Branch was held on 15<sup>th</sup> August, 2003 and was well attended. As well as a good social gathering several issues were discussed :

- Issues regarding Acid Sulfate Soils were discussed with regard to development pressures increasing on wetland areas and canal developments in the Peel-Harvey estuary. A field trip was proposed for the spring and Andrew Harley is currently working with Bob Gilkes to develop an appropriate field trip to gain a better understanding of the soils issues pertaining to this emerging area of interest.
- Richard Harper presented the status of the reprinting of Bill McArthur's 1991 text, "Reference soils of south-western Australia" . A Technical working group was established and a subsequent meeting has prepared the material for final review prior to printing.
- A WA State Conference is proposed for Albany in 2004 and was agreed to hold it at the Centre of Excellence of Natural Resource Management, Albany. The beginning stages of the planning process have begun.
- Jon Firman described some of his soil stratigraphy mapping process.



Some of the attendees at the WA Branch meeting

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# ***Report from ASSSI Representative on AJSR Editorial Advisory Committee- Andrew Rate***

Australian Journal of Soil Research

Report on Editorial Advisory Committee Meeting, 19 September 2003

The main focus of this meeting was to discuss strategic directions for the *Australian Journal of Soil Research*. The journal is making solid progress and is financially sound, and there is considerable effort being directed towards enhancing its international profile. This is, in part, motivated by the potential threats posed by the recent mergers of Kluwer and Springer, and Elsevier and Academic Publishers. Other issues for the *Australian Journal of Soil Research* include the growing importance of citation statistics such as the Journal Impact Factor and Citation Half-Life in attracting authors and readers to the journal, and the mistaken perception of *AJSR* as an Australasian rather than an international journal. The recent funding crisis for soil science in New Zealand was also considered as a potential threat.

The Committee discussed a range of strategies for increasing the journal's Impact Factor and readership, including:

- Publicity at conferences and other meetings;
- Change to the more widely used A4 format for 2004;
- Expanding the Editorial Advisory Committee to include international members;
- Strengthening links with societies including ASSSI and NZSSS;
- Bring on-line access of *AJSR* up to date with existing technology;
- Improving the search ranking of *AJSR* in electronic databases and search engines;
- Targeting international institutional subscribers;
- Soliciting topical review articles and special issues.

Any views that ASSSI members have regarding the *Australian Journal of Soil Research* should be forwarded to Andrew Rate ([andrew.rate@uwa.edu.au](mailto:andrew.rate@uwa.edu.au)).

School of Earth & Geographical Sciences, The University of Western Australia

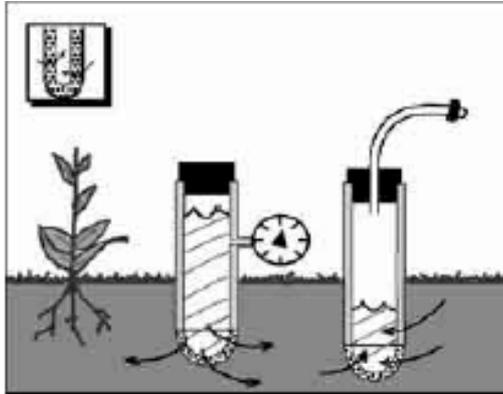
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## ***News from the NSW Branch of ASSSI***

The New South Wales Branch continues to BOOM. We have lots of soil science activities happening. Apologies to NSW and ACT members who will have read a similar report in Cornstalk Media. We bought forward the last Branch Meeting to the 29th of August so that we could meet Dr Alfred Hartemink and listen to his very entertaining talk on 'Trends and Facts in Soil Science'. Alfred is the Deputy Secretary General of the International Union of Soil Science and is also a member of ASSSI. After the meeting we held a very pleasant celebratory dinner at an Italian restaurant in nearby Glebe point road. Thanks to the Graeme Tupper and the team, organisation is well underway for the SuperSoils conference to be held at Sydney University in December 2004. First notices are being distributed and all aspects of the program and organisation are advancing to schedule. Attention is now turning to the area of sponsorship. You can be assured that it will be a great conference. Butch Hawkins has hatched a plan for a series of historic soils displays for the conference and beyond. An Armidale soils excursion is planned for pm Thursday 13th through to after lunch time on Saturday the 15th of November. We have a concentration of members in New England and an excursion to this interesting area is long overdue. Bob Patterson is arranging a variety of lively speakers a notable group of sites for the event. All are welcome. An agenda and costing will be forwarded to NSW and ACT members soon. A Soil Science Membership Poster is being printed and will be distributed to members soon. The poster is A3 size and available for any interested members to display. In controversy corner: the NSW State Soil debate has been unleashed. Members are putting their heads together to choose a state soil. Put in your two bob's worth. NSW has a state flower, state animal, state gem and state rock. We've even got a state Premier.... so why not a State Soil? A Branch Members soils photo competition is also now underway. We will be showing the best of the best at our next meeting on the next WORLD SOILS DAY (celebrated on an interim basis until approved officially by the UN) on the 5th of December. After the meeting we will have our Christmas party. Early next year we are planning a field trip in the Dubbo Walgett and Pilliga area. To help plan ahead, our future meetings will be scheduled on a regular basis (contact the secretary for dates). We will have a meeting close to World Environment Day 5th June and close to World Soils Day 5th December. We will also have regular committee meetings to coincide with Federal Council meetings.

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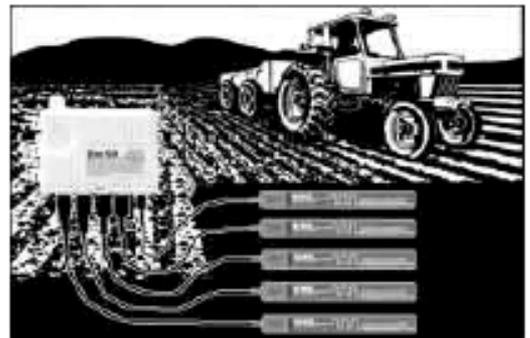
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**Silver adsorption/desorption on soil constituents and fractionation of silver and other trace elements in soil**

The aim of this study was to provide a better understanding of silver geochemistry in soils for applications in mining exploration and environmental protection. The study was carried out with four major parts: material characterization, silver adsorption by soil constituents, kinetic desorption of silver by soil constituents, speciations of silver and other trace elements in soils.

It is understood that the relative impacts of common soil constituents on the behavior of silver in the environment would largely depend on the surface properties and chemistry of these constituents. Modern techniques such as X-ray diffraction, transmission electron microscopy and inductively coupled plasma - mass spectrometry have been used in this study to characterise the soil constituents, and the results have been used in interpreting adsorption/desorption of Ag by soil constituents. For example, the difference in specific surface areas of ferrihydrite (245 m<sup>2</sup>/g) and goethite (41 m<sup>2</sup>/g) has been considered when interpreting the much greater sorption of Ag by ferrihydrite relative to goethite.

Adsorption of silver by soil constituents was found to be influenced by solution pH, initial silver concentration, and background electrolyte applied. Ag adsorption by soil constituents expressed in a unit weight basis decreased in the order Mn oxide (birnessite) > soil organic matter (charcoal and humic acid) > amorphous Fe oxide (ferrihydrite) > crystalline Fe oxides (goethite and hematite) <sup>a</sup> clay mineral (kaolinite). Simple empirical models and surface complexation models provided better understanding of the different adsorption of Ag by the soil constituents in terms of the numbers of adsorption sites and affinities of the soil constituents to Ag.

The effects of reaction time between silver and soil constituents on silver desorption was also investigated. Longer reaction time resulted in a smaller proportion of silver being desorbed. For example, 70-85% of adsorbed Ag was desorbed from goethite within 20 hours if the adsorption period was 4 days, and 23-30% Ag was desorbed when the adsorption period was 4 months. Analysis of model parameters indicated possible changes of metal-oxide binding and metal-humic acid complexing mechanisms, and these changes can be interpreted as re-arrangements of Ag ions to sites with slower desorption reaction rates.

The distributions of silver and other trace metals among operationally defined fractions in some Australian soils were determined by sequential extraction techniques. Results for distribution patterns of Ag in native soils and in soils which have received recent additions of Ag showed that a high proportion of Ag was associated with crystalline Fe oxides (56.9% for native soils, 65.5% for soils with recent additions of Ag). A low proportion of Ag was associated with soil organic matter: 0.6% for native soils, and 6.7% for soils with recent additions of Ag. This result appears to conflict with the results of the Ag adsorption study, which indicated that Mn oxides and soil organic matter are much stronger adsorbents of Ag than are crystalline Fe oxides. This conflict could not be explained from the study of Ag desorption kinetics.

Mn oxides and soil organic matter are much less abundant in ancient lateritic soils in Western Australia than Fe oxides and kaolin group minerals. Consequently these results indicated that crystalline Fe oxides and clay minerals could be very important sinks for Ag in soils. This study provides information on how silver reacts with soil constituents. This information will be useful for assessing environmental impacts due to mobilization of Ag from contaminated soils and sediments, and through this new understanding, the geochemical behavior of Ag may be used as a guide in exploration for mineral deposits, and for predicting the bioavailability of Ag.

Further work should be directed towards choosing more representative soil samples for Ag speciation studies; Ag adsorption study on multiple soil constituents or soils; desorption kinetics of Ag from Ag contaminated or Ag amended soils; and study of adsorption mechanisms of Mn oxides and charcoal to metal ions.

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## *PhD student from Victoria visits Estonia*

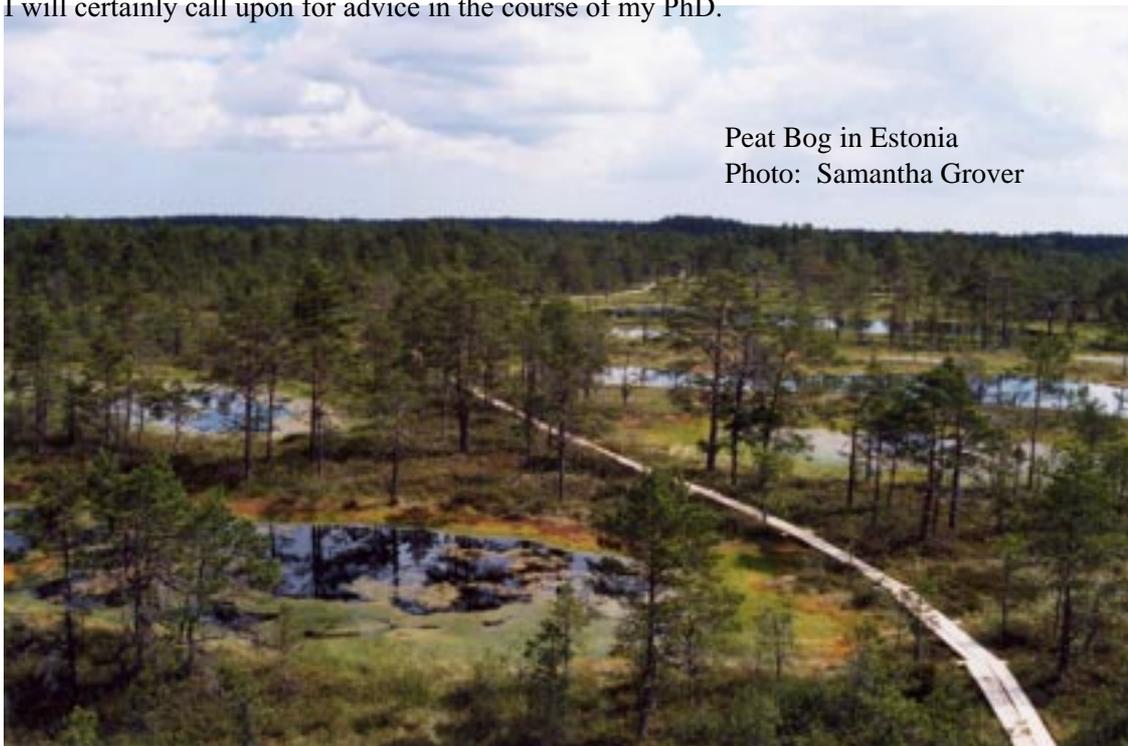


Samantha Grover

With the help of a postgraduate student grant from the Victorian branch of the ASSSI, I recently presented some of my PhD work at the international conference and educational workshop “Ecohydrological processes in Northern Wetlands”. Studying peat soils in Australia is a lonely business, so the opportunity to get together with the world’s experts in peat hydrology and carbon cycling was one I couldn’t miss. The conference was held in Estonia, a small flat country in Baltic Europe, of which 23% is covered by bogs. The conference and post-conference field trips provided plenty of opportunity for us to explore and enjoy a number of Estonian bogs, both in their natural state and peatlands remaining after commercial peat extraction. The field trips included field demonstrations of techniques covered in the educational workshop earlier in the week. The education focus of the conference was very useful for me, still in the early stages of my PhD, and I learnt an enormous amount in such a short time. Experts from Canada, the UK and Europe presented lectures on the latest techniques for monitoring and modeling ecological and hydrological processes specifically in peats. These lectures were linked with field demonstrations of the techniques on subsequent days. I found the field demonstrations extremely valuable, as I was able to see new methods in action and ask questions about the details of their field implementation.

Presenting my work to an international, specialist audience was quite daunting. Though I had a positive experience presenting my honours work last year at the ASSSI national conference in Perth, FutureSoils, I was nonetheless very nervous. Scheduled to speak right after lunch on Monday, I was relieved that at least it would be over early on. I had arrived in Estonia on Sunday, registered for the conference and settled in to my accommodation, a pleasant walk through the old town from the conference venue. On Monday morning I concentrated on the welcoming addresses and invited lectures, and only became nervous over lunch. However my talk went very well, so I was told later in the week, and several people were interested in the technique that we are using to describe the extent of decomposition of peat. I found the other presentations interesting and many were relevant to my work, a rare delight when working in an unusual field. The less formal setting of the field excursions provided many opportunities for us to discuss each other’s work, and I made both friends and useful contacts whom I will certainly call upon for advice in the course of my PhD.

*Continued Page 21*



Peat Bog in Estonia  
Photo: Samantha Grover

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*Continued from Page 16*

While in Europe, I also arranged to visit and work with two peat scientists, Dr. Lisa Belyea at the University of Edinburgh, and Dr. Andrew Baird at Sheffield University. Before the conference, I worked with Dr. Lisa Belyea on two bogs in northern Scotland, at Poolewe and Cnoc an Alaskie. These blanket bogs quite blew my mind, peat as far as you can see in every direction! That marvelous springy feeling underfoot, without the sinking feeling that you are damaging a damaged ecosystem that accompanies bog-hopping in the Australian Alps. Even mid summer, Scottish bogs tend to be cold and wet, and the biting midges brought a new element to field-work fashion- see the photo of me in a midgenet! The weather was kinder when I visited Dr. Andrew Baird in Sheffield, we worked on a raised bog in Wales in the summer sunshine. Andy and one of his PhD students Nick were installing temperature and water content monitoring equipment into the bog as part of the H.I.P. project- Heat In Peat. The experience of working with other peat scientists in the field both improved my technical knowledge and reassured me that I am heading in the right direction, albeit a cold, wet and somewhat unstable one.

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## ***IUSS NEWS:***

### ***Mission and Objectives for C4.4 Education***

#### **From C4.4 Newsletter (forwarded by Pam Hazelton)**

As they were defined for Division 4, Mission and Objectives for C4.4 are as follows:

- Mission: to contribute to build the missing link between Soil Science and Society by developing awareness about the vital importance of soil for life, for every citizen.

- Objectives:

1 – to help the wider population discover Soil

to invite soil scientists to address not only soil scientists, but also scientists and professionals from other disciplines

non scientists: in particular young people, large public gatherings or forums and institutions dealing with these groups (e.g.: Ministry of education, Ministry of sports, Ministry of Culture)

2 – to assist in the exploration and study the Soil Cover, in the field

to enhance the high value of scientific study of soils in the field within the scientific career (curriculum, awards ...)  
to stress in the development of scientific programs, multi-disciplinary collaborations, for long-term in-situ studies of the arrangement and pattern of soil cover, and on transformations of soil cover, in particular under the influence of the activities of man.

3 – to help highlight the social demand towards soil

4 – to maintain and increase teaching in Soil Science:

by demonstrating the relevance of soil science to other disciplines

by developing multidisciplinary studies for students, in the field

by using new technologies

5 – to draw attention to the definitive responsibility of humankind towards the Soil Resource:

in different types of public debates

in different types of workshops

in encouraging exhibitions at different scales

- Means:

Working together with the four Divisions of IUSS and specially with Division 4/ Commission 4.5 “History, Philosophy, and Sociology of Soil Science”

Actions by National Soil Science Societies both working individually and together.

Education : the missing link between Soil Science and Society

#### **From the C4.4 Newsletter**

The aim of this Newsletter is to provide, twice a year, information on what is going on in the field of Soil Education and Public Awareness. It is hoped that through contributions from members of this Commission and others an international view will be possible.

Therefore it is suggested that a NSSS (National Soil Science Society) Network be established to help people share this international information and to allow anyone to broaden specific subjects.

So the C4.4 Newsletter will serve as an introduction to NSSS Education activities. It will be helpful to provide regional news, not necessarily accessible via NSSS, but also from intercommission work.

*Continued on Page 25*

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## ***CPSS Update***

The next round of OPD and CPSS Stage assessments will occur in October with the Accreditation Board meeting in Melbourne on November 5. Would all members that have not submitted their OPD forms please forward them to the ASSSI office before Friday 26 September 2003. These forms will be sent to the Accreditation Board for assessment with results due in October.

### **2003 Accredited CPSS List**

The 2003 list of CPSS members who have paid the accreditation fee, submitted evidence of 50 hours of on-going professional development and have been approved by the Accreditation Board will be posted on the web following the Accreditation Board Meeting.

### **New CPSS Certificates being issued**

During the year, two cases have been reported where previously registered CPSS members have been falsely claiming to be CPSS when submitting for tenders. In one instance, a Council employee visited the ASSSI web site to check the status of the individual. As the individual was not listed on the site he then called the ASSSI office to discuss the matter. To address this problem, the original certificates are being re-issued with dates commencing from when ASSSI took over the administration of the scheme. Seals will be attached to the new certificates.

### **Auditing of Members**

As advised in E-Bulletin #1 in April, auditing of members will commence in September. Auditing is completely random and will be based on a random selection of 20 per cent of the CPSS accredited scientists. Members being audited will be advised of their selection and that the ASSSI Executive Officer may contact them if the Accreditation Board require further information.

### **Update on the ASSSI web site**

The revised ASSSI web site is close to completion and will appear similar in style to the Accreditation site. The site should enable easier access and a more professional image for the society.

### **Future Developments**

The Accreditation Board has reviewed the requirements for accreditation and re-written some sections of the 2003 Accreditation Handbook. The updated version will be provided to all members in January with the subscription renewal notice.

### **Change in Schedule of Activities**

To all CPSS members, thank you for your understanding during the period in which the Executive Officer was travelling overseas on a Churchill Fellowship. The original schedule of activities for July and August were postponed and will be conducted in the last three months of the year.

### **Stage 1 and Stage 2 CPSS**

A reminder to all Stage 1 and Stage 2 CPSS to upgrade to the next stage of accreditation as soon as the accreditation requirements for that stage have been achieved. Further details on stage 2 and stage 3 requirements are available in the 2003 Accreditation Handbook and Guidelines or on the ASSSI web site accreditation link.

**AJSR is available on the  
web  
[www.publish.csiro.au/  
journal/ajsr/index.html](http://www.publish.csiro.au/journal/ajsr/index.html)**

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# *PhD Thesis Abstract*

**Mark Whitten** School of Earth and Geographical Sciences, The University of Western Australia

Amelioration and prevention of agriculturally generated subsurface acidity in sandy soils in Western Australia

A long-term strategy for managing agriculturally generated soil acidification below the depth of normal cultivation will be vital to the sustainability of agriculture on sandy soils of the Western Australian wheatbelt. The need to prevent subsurface acidification is demonstrated by severe subsurface acidity which occurs naturally in restricted areas of this region. In these soils, aluminium toxicity to roots of many economically important crops can decrease yield by limiting access to water and nutrients at depth.

This thesis describes investigations of materials and methods for managing subsurface acidification. These include three phases of field experimentation, and comparative studies of lime dissolution in solution, in leaching columns, and in undisturbed soil using a novel technique of measuring carbon dioxide production. Field experiments initially focussed on both immediate amelioration and medium-term prevention of subsurface soil acidity. Proven techniques of rapid amelioration with surface applied gypsum, or segmental liming of the subsurface to create non-toxic pathways for roots, resulted in one case only of an increase in yield of 8% with Al-sensitive wheat, but no consistent effect on yields over three seasons. With 4 t ha<sup>-1</sup> limesand mixed at 0-10 cm, a small increase in pH of 0.1-0.3 units at 10-20 cm after 3 years contrasted with the rapid downward transfer of sulfate or bromide tracer. A survey of 21 field trials 2-15 years after lime was mixed at normal cultivation depths established that pH increases to about 30 cm had occurred within 4-7 years of applying lime at gross rates of up to 5 t ha<sup>-1</sup>.

Three lime trials established 7-9 years beforehand were re-limed on a split-plot design to partition any residual benefit into surface and subsurface effects. Canola yield increased by 29% at the most acidic site, with 13% attributed to increased soil pH to a depth of 10-15 cm. Poor nutrient status may have limited responses to lime, in spite of fertiliser addition. Significant reductions in leaf concentrations of Mn, Zn, Cu or B with original or re-applied lime indicate a need for better nutrient management when introducing lime to a farming system on soils which are already prone to deficiency.

Insufficient lime, or coarse particle sizes, were identified as alterable causes for slow increases in subsurface pH. A third phase of field trials therefore focussed on lime rate, lime particle size, and tillage. Contrast in particle size was achieved by using Lancelin limesand which was unprocessed (95% 90-500 µm) or ball-milled (97% <90 µm). Against a background of decreasing pH, the lime mixed at 0-10 cm had increased the pH at 10-20 cm by 0.1-0.4 pH units after 3 years. This increase was positively correlated with the pH at 0-10 cm if this was ≥5.9. Finely grinding the limesand approximately doubled its effectiveness in terms of increasing the soil pH at 0-10 cm, a difference which was maintained for 3 years at one trial, and 2 years at the other. There was no difference in subsurface pH between no-till and cultivation. Yields of wheat and lupins were not affected by lime, but barley yield was positively correlated with pH at 0-10 cm and pH at 20-30 cm or lower.

A leaching column experiment established that increasing the amount of lime, and decreasing the particle size, resulted in more lime leaching and a greater depth of pH increases. Projecting the leaching efficiency (alkalinity per unit of drainage) to the field using published measurements of field drainage implies that the downward transfer of alkalinity from limed surface soil can exceed acid inputs in the subsurface. Leaching of sufficient alkalinity will require a pH of 6-7 at a depth of 0-10 cm, and higher lime rates than the common WA practice of 1 t ha<sup>-1</sup>. Residues of mature lupin plants added with lime increased the downward transfer of alkalinity, either by protonation or decomposition of mobile organic anions.

The specific rates of dissolution of several limes conformed with literature values, and occurred in the order magnesian calcite (limesand) > calcite (limestone) > dolomite > magnesian dolomite. Specific surface area varied in the opposite order, almost compensating for low specific reactivity in the dolomitic limes, with the result that absolute differences in rates of dissolution between types of lime were less than the differences between the extremes of particle size within each type of lime. Particle size therefore remains the most important criterion for comparing the diverse limes in Western Australia, provided they are of similar purity. The cost effectiveness of liming, and the prospects for preventing a long term decline in productivity from subsurface acidification, would both improve if the particle sizes of all lime products were significantly decreased. A maximum size of <0.1 mm is suggested by the results of grinding the limesand.

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# *Australian Journal of Soil Research*

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## **A truly international journal at the forefront of Soil and Environmental Sciences**

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## **Highlights**

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Our readership is world-wide; ~60% of subscribing libraries are overseas

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The journal's focus has been broadened; ~27% of papers published in 2002 are from outside ANZ; the overseas submissions are growing from all the continents

### **Highly accessed amongst CSIRO journals**

18300 downloads in 2001-02, this attests to the journal's popularity among those accessing the CSIRO Publishing website

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One of the top five most accessed journals amongst CSIRO's suite of journals; a reflection of the journals growing audience in Europe/overseas

### **High citation ranking and impact factor**

Current impact factor is 1.055; ranked 11th by ISI within the category of Agriculture, Soil Science amongst 29 journals; more than 10 years cited half-life; high immediacy index

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ASSSI Members will be able to subscribe to the Australian Journal of Soil Research via their 2003 ASSSI membership renewal. There 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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# *Do you know your ASSSI Federal Executive?*



See Page 33 for  
Contact details

ASSSI Federal Council  
meets bi-monthly via  
telephone conference  
in  
Jan, Mar, May,  
July, Sept, Nov.

## **ASSSI Federal Executive 2003-2004**

|                    |                               |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| President:         | Dr Cameron Grant (SA Branch)  |
| Vice President:    | Dr Neal Menzies (Qld Branch)  |
| Secretary:         | Dr Annie McNeill (SA Branch)  |
| Treasurer:         | Mr Keith Lindbeck (WA Branch) |
| Newsletter Editor: | Prof Lyn Abbott (WA Branch)   |

Branch Presidents are also members of Federal Council

|                    |                           |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Queensland:        | Mr Andrew Biggs           |
| New South Wales:   | Mr Greg Chapman           |
| Riverina:          | Mr John Thompson          |
| Victoria:          | Dr Aravind Surapaneni     |
| South Australia:   | Dr Cameron Grant (Acting) |
| Western Australia: | Dr Andrew Harley          |

|                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Tasmania (observer) | Dr Philip Smethurst |
| AJSR Representative | Dr Andrew Rate      |

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*C 4.4 Newsletter Continued from Page 21*

The NSSS Network

- The proposal is that each National Soil Science Society (NSSS) can make visible, for everyone interested, what it is doing in the field of Soil Education and Public Awareness... and in fact, in a wider sense, in the field of whatever theme that is studied within IUSS.

For that, a proposal made to IUSS, is that on the IUSS website, each NSSS can have a webpage. It means that one will be able to enter with different entries on the IUSS website: with the name of the country (to see what is going on in the NSSS of this particular country); or with the Division name, then the Commission name (to see, at the level of the Division, or at the level of the Commission, what has been done, or is in the project stage, on the theme in which the person is interested, and this by country (NSSS)).

- In the C4.4 (Soil Education and Public Awareness) domain, the following grid is suggested, as to better read NSSS Education activities:

The World Soil Day initiatives

Activities/Initiatives Teaching materials Link collection

C4.4 request for soil stories

C4.4 thinks that every commission should have relations with C4.4

The way for collaboration can be first to develop the writing of true accounts of soil, within the different themes of the Commissions, but always with a high meaning and pedagogical content.

For example, collaborations are initiated with commissions C4.5 and C3.1:

C4.5 History, Philosophy, and Sociology of Soil Science

Collaboration has already begun with C4.5, as the aim is to have a symposium in common for EUROSIL 2004

C3.1 Soil Evaluation and Land Use Planning

As for C4.5, C4.4 is asking C3.1 to provide for soil stories. For example, as the President of C3.1, Ricardo Ralisch is from Brazil ([ralisch@uel.br](mailto:ralisch@uel.br)), with a European origin, he was asked to think about the ways Europeans had adapted to their new Brazilian environment: it is known that in many cases, it took time before recognizing the soils

*Continued on Page 32*

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# *ASSSI Federal Council Meeting 212*

Australian Society of Soil Science Inc.

Minutes of Federal Council Meeting 212

Teleconference

Friday May 30<sup>th</sup> 2003; 1.30pm WST, 3.00pm SA, 3.30pm EST

1 Opening:

The meeting opened at 3.00 pm Adelaide time.

2 Attendance (alphabetical order):

Linda Bennison (Executive Officer), Cameron Grant (Federal President,), Mike Grundy (Pres QLD), Neal Menzies (Vice President), Annie McNeill (Federal Secretary), Balwant Singh (NSW), Andrew Harley (Pres WA).

3 Apologies:

Lyn Abbott (Profile Editor), Graham Chapman (Pres NSW), Keith Lindbeck (Federal Treasurer), Aravind Surapaneni (Pres. VIC), John Thompson (Pres Riverina).

4 Minutes accepted from last meeting subject to changing Graham Chapman to Greg Chapman with apologies from Annie. Acceptance proposed: Cam Seconded Neal

5 Business arising from minutes of Federal Council Meeting 211

Constitutional changes needs to be addressed formally and submission drafted for next federal council meeting – action deferred for next meeting Action: Cam Grant

Suggested follow up by Lisa Lobry de Bruyn to survey at WA conference – dealt with in President's report later in meeting.

Subscriptions & arrears: All local members to chase those members still non-financial. Action: All

Audited accounts & final statement for last conference in process for next meeting. Action: Keith Lindbeck

Suggested complimentary membership to student with poster at 2004 conference?

If only offered to non-members might be seen as a disadvantage to students already a member. Overall a good idea. Neal says it might be better to offer a reduction in conference subs to a student that is equivalent to a membership (\$44, on top of the other reduction already offered for students). Student members come for say \$250 and new student members come for say \$294?? What is under the constitution by-law 31H? Balwant to check with Greg re provision of a clear example for next meeting. Action: Balwant & Greg Chapman

Awards certificates – Keith to follow up but in his absence Cam volunteered to do the job. Action: Cam Grant

Promoting soil science – follow up to conference ideas and decision on further actions – categorising ideas

Action: Lyn Abbott

Accreditation of Soil Science Courses and/or Teaching. Lyn to write a short report for consideration – deferred to next meeting Action: Lyn Abbott

IUSS double fee-paying – still awaiting response from Nortcliff Action: Cam Grant

Appears no 2002 Perth Conf. Proc. remaining unless any in WA? Action: Andrew Harley

6 President's Report

There was some discussion concerning access to Profile, membership lists etc on ASSSI website.

Linda reported she has spoken with Derek Yates re project to redevelop website to give appropriate access to public and members - cost in region of \$5,000. After discussion it was suggested that Linda draw up a proposal about revamping the site and get input from Federal Council members. Linda emphasised the site is not just ASSSI members but also CPSS. Key purpose of web site is both for members and to enhance the profession of soil science to the general public. Council agreed proposal by Cam to allocate \$5K initially for Linda to get the job started.

Action: Linda Bennison

Member Survey

General agreement was reached that if access to data and interpretation is available and the Perth report looks useful then the society could send out the survey to all members (given there are relatively few intrusions on privacy during each year), and that an added possibility would be to include a few other specific questions. Decision was to circulate Lisa's Perth report and a copy of the survey to council members, suggest additional questions and then finalise approval to send out. Action: Lyn Abbott

Awards Committee

September 30<sup>th</sup> set as new cut off date for Prescott Medal and Cam to put in Profile Action: Cam Grant

CG Stephens Award

Cam to clear up any anomalies in instructions by informing nominators. Council agreed the rule that recipient needs to be a society member but not the nominator. Action: Cam Grant

*Minutes 212 continued on Page 27*

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*Minutes 212 continued from Page 26*

AIAST call for closer collaboration

Cam to contact Bob White and to send copy of fax to all federal council members for info. Balwant to take details of AIAST meeting in Sydney/Canberra to next NSW branch meeting. Action: Cam Grant & Balwant

CPSS duplication

Linda informed that the CPSS acronym is registered by the AIAST but has recently been adopted by a society of spatial scientists. She is following up with them. Action: Linda Bennison

7 Executive Officer's Report

There was some discussion on the issue that currently membership certificates are not dated so a lapsed member can still present a certificate that appears valid. Council agreed that a new certificate be included with the subscription receipt every year. In the case of CPSS the issue has to be dealt with by other committee under Bob White

8 Secretary's Report

Annie had received a few enquiries re membership and awards –passed on to Cam Grant or Linda Bennison

Full archives received on CD from Richard Harper – previous secretary

9 Treasurer's Report

Council to send a get-well message to Keith

The question arose as to whether branch funds had been allocated.

After some discussion it was agreed that the treasurers job could be easier if the executive officer had access to society funds to enable rapid processing of some requests (for example to pay state branch fees). Two actions were approved by council:

1. Immediate issue of 10 blank cheques to be lodged with EO to deal with urgent financial issues. Keith to be contacted re this decision.

2. Exploration of constitutional requirements for giving EO fuller access to society funds Action: Cam Grant

10 Profile Editor's Report

None

11 Branch President's Reports Attached from SA

12 General Business

Dealt with above under matters arising from previous minutes

13 Other business

A few items were raised by Balwant Singh on behalf of Greg Chapman:

Payment of actual expenses for Graeme Tupper (for convening the ANZ 2004 conference) was requested from the conference floating fund of the federal council. It was suggested that Graeme send receipts directly to Keith Lindbeck for reimbursal.

Action: Balwant & Greg

Question arose as to what arrangements need to be made to access the conference floating fund for the 2004 conference? Federal council approved transfer of the floating fund of \$20K in principal but requires arrangement via Keith. Cam to contact him. Action: Cam Grant

For membership renewals it has been suggested within the NSW branch that instead of a penalty being given for late payment that instead a discount be given for early payment and prices adjusted accordingly. Currently fees are \$110 on time and \$130 if late. Could adjust to \$105 earlybird and \$120 ordinary. Concept supported but requires discussion with Treasurer at a later date.

For general information it was noted that the NSW branch intend to establish a web-site with the same look and feel as the Federal web site and of course links to the same.

ASSSI Promotional poster produced for the NSW branch. The poster can be modified and used as desired by other branches or federally. Balwant to enquire at next branch meeting re possibility of production and distribution to other branches. Action: Balwant

Worlds Soils Day in early December. Has this been officially sanctioned? Is it fully approved? How has it been approved and can we plan activities on the basis of its current status? Cam to investigate and report to next meeting.

Action: Cam Grant

New members were approved by council (Proposed Cam Grant Seconded Annie McNeill).

Mike Grundy reported on ISCO. Insurance cover had been taken out.

International Erosion Control Association (Australia) are co-sponsoring the conference

Pre and post-conference tours organised

14 Close Meeting closed at 4.30 SA time

15 Next Meeting Federal Council 213, 25 July 2003. 3.00pm SA time (1.30pm WST)

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# *ASSSI Federal Council Meeting 213*

Australian Society of Soil Science Inc.

Minutes of Federal Council Meeting 213

Teleconference

Friday July 25th 2003; 1.30pm WST, 3.00pm SA, 3.30pm EST

1 Opening: The meeting opened at 3.00 pm Adelaide time.

Present were: Lyn Abbott (Profile Editor), Andrew Biggs (Qld Vice-Pres) Cameron Grant (Federal President), Keith Lindbeck (Federal Treasurer), Neal Menzies (Vice President), Annie McNeill (Federal Secretary), Aravind Surapaneni (Pres. VIC), Andrew Harley (Pres WA).

2 Apologies:

Linda Bennison (Executive Officer), Greg Chapman (Pres NSW), Mike Grundy (Pres QLD), John Thompson (Pres Riverina).

3 Acceptance of Minutes of Federal Council Meeting 212

Proposed: C. Grant Seconded: A. McNeill

It was requested that the Secretary compile and circulate minutes as quickly as possible following each meeting to allow time for actions to be undertaken prior to next meeting. Action: A. McNeill

4 Profile Editor's Report

Editor reported that everything was going well (mostly).

The President congratulated the Editor on a job well done – endorsed by rest of Federal Council.

5 Business arising from minutes of Federal Council Meeting 212

Constitutional changes: The President reported that in light of recent developments (see Treasurers report) there were bigger issues to be addressed before constitutional changes could be considered and drafted. Action therefore needed to be delayed pending outcome of Incorporation issues.

WA Conference survey: The President reported that if further feedback or additional question suggestions were not forthcoming from Federal Council by the week ending 1 August 2003 he would, after consulting with NSW who were not present at this meeting, give the go-ahead for the survey to be circulated to all society members. The Federal Vice President endorsed the view that the society should benefit from the survey. Action: C. Grant

2004 ASSSI Conference: Complimentary membership for students submitting poster - in the absence of a NSW representative at the meeting discussion of this item was deferred to next meeting

Awards certificates for Perth conference: Treasurer to send list of winners to Federal President for certificates to be produced and distributed. Action: C. Grant & K. Lindbeck

Short report on Accreditation of Soil Science Courses and/or Teaching: Profile Editor to prepare this for last meeting of the year. Action: L. Abbott

IUSS 'double fee' charging: Federal President to contact IUSS Sec Gen. Action: C. Grant

Perth 2002 conference proceedings: No hard copies remaining but electronic access being discussed with editor (David Williams) and EO Action: L. Bennison

Allocation of \$5K for web site design at previous FC meeting. Progress report to be provided at next meeting by EO Action: L. Bennison

Awards: Currently no submissions for the Prescott Medal. Several submissions received for the C. G. Stephens Award. The President called for a final follow up call by Federal Council members to members at James Cook, Murdoch, La Trobe, Monash, U of Adelaide and U of Sydney.

Action: N. Menzies; A. Surapaneni, C. Grant

CPSS Duplication of acronym: discussion deferred to next meeting Action: L. Bennison

EO Access to Society Funds: The motion passed at FC Meeting 212 regarding EO access to funds was rescinded by Federal Council on the advice of the Treasurer (see attached report). Further the Treasurer suggested that the current system was workable if accounts were promptly, by whatever means, forwarded to him for processing. Suggested possibly giving EO electronic access to society accounts to enable faster processing but advice of auditor should be sought prior to any changes in current system. The Treasurers comments were endorsed by A. Biggs(Qsld) and A. Surapaneni (Vic). The President suggested that the matter perhaps could be discussed between the EO, Treasurer and himself, and then brought back to Federal council. This action was endorsed by those present.

Action: L. Bennison, C. Grant & K. Lindbeck

6. President's Report - None (dealt with in business arising from previous minutes).

7. Executive Officer's Report None (EO on Churchill Fellowship)

*Continued on Page 29*

#### 8. Secretary's Report

Secretary confirmed dates of meetings for rest of year as per FCMtg 211 minutes: 26 September and 28 November  
General Telstra Conference number for Federal Council to phone if problems accessing tele-conference is:  
1800 011 080

#### 9 Treasurer's Report Attached

Treasurer thanked Federal Council for the best wishes conveyed to him during his recent/ongoing health problem. Point 6 from the report regarding a potential 'crisis' over the incorporation of the Society was highlighted. Expert advice had been sought and the Federal Council approved a nominal allocation of \$5K for immediate access by the Treasurer to engage the services of a solicitor if considered necessary.

The Secretary offered that as Treasurer recently of the Australian Soc for Nitrogen Fixation she was aware it was operating under a model of State (NSW) Incorporation with a Public Officer in Wagga Wagga responsible for submitting annual returns, but that the documentation specifically cited acceptance of operation nationally. However, the ASSSI case appears identical to that experienced by the Australian Agronomy Society relatively recently and good advice may be available from the individuals that sorted the problem out. It was suggested that the documentation for the three cases be sourced if possible and compared. Action: K. Lindbeck & A. McNeill

#### 10 Branch President's Reports

WA Branch Report submitted

Transfer to new "committee" complete; Andrew Harley- President, Martin Wells – Secretary/Treasurer.  
Beginning to develop events for rest of year:

- Member meeting in August to discuss activities
- Proposed field trip for pedology of acid sulfate soils in October

No other reports received by meeting

#### 11 General Business

None

#### 12 Other business

##### 1. ISCO Conference:

The Queensland Branch Rep requested that a document be produced and signed by the Presidents of the four institutions providing equal supporting funds for the conference. The purpose of the document is to ensure an equal share for any final profit or liability for loss. The four supporting institutions being ASSSI Federal Council, ASSI Qsld Branch, IECA Australasia and IECA International. Federal Council agreed in principle with the action. Subject to final approval of document by President and Treasurer Action: A. Biggs, C. Grant & K. Lindbeck

Federal Council was informed that ISCO has been insured against any major losses incurred due to circumstances beyond control (disease epidemics etc.).

2. Federal Council approved a request by WA Branch for transfer of \$3K into the branch account (in lieu of foregone income from the State conference not being held due to the National conference being held in Perth at that time).

Action: K. Lindbeck

3. The Victorian President (A. Surapaneni) offered his services as a Committee member on Awards Committees. The President gladly accepted the offer and indicated he would be in contact in the future re the matter. Action: C. Grant

#### 13 Close Meeting closed at approximately 4.15pm CST

#### 14 Next Meeting

Date of next meeting: 26 September at 1.30 WST, 3.00 CST and 3.30 EST.

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## Keith Lindbeck, ASSSI Federal Treasurer

Keith has been a member of ASSSI since 1985 and in addition to his role as Federal Treasurer for the last three years, he has been a member of the WA Branch Committee (as treasurer). He has made valuable contributions to events such as the WA Branch conferences and led the committee which organized the most recent ASSSI National Conference: FutureSoils in Perth last December.

Keith is an environmental consultant to the mining industry.



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Dr Andrew Rate is the ASSSI Representative on the AJSR Advisory Committee..

Here he is at UWA in Perth with his postgraduate students and a visiting soil scientist from India.



L to R Gina Pemberton, Dr Andrew Rate, Edgardo Alarcon-leon, Claire McMahan, Hsien Lim, Dr Naipal Yaduvanshi (visitor from India) and Fadly Yusran

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## Sustainable Insight

A new (free) monthly e-newsletter called "Sustainable Insight" was launched July 2003; it focuses on development and implementation of sustainable technologies and practices in Australia, and it welcomes input from soil scientists and their activities.

If you wish to sample the Newsletter or contribute to it, go to the Sustainable Insight website at

<http://www.sustainableinsight.com.au/>

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#### C 4.4 Newsletter Continued from Page 25

specificity, and acting in consequence. So a collection of true stories in these pioneer contexts might be of a high educational value.

With time, all these stories could be published ...

#### The World Soil Day The IUSS proposal

It was proposed at the end of the Bangkok Congress (08/2002), in honor of the birthday of the King of Thailand, that the 5<sup>th</sup> of December should be World Soil Day. This proposal was put forward by C4.4 to thank his majesty for his deep interest and personal involvement in promoting the need to understand soils and to thank him and the Thai people for the hospitality extended to the 2002 IUSS Congress.

The Thai agreement This proposal received the agreement of the Government of Thailand.

Waiting for the UN recognition

And IUSS is now working to have this date officially recognized by the United Nations, so as to launch it as a real World Soil Day. While waiting for this recognition, in every country, we can already act, at a local scale or more: it is part of our duty, as NSSS, to spread and develop this initiative.

Germany and the 5th of December

Germany has already started to celebrate the World Soil Day on the 5th of December: In 2002, Monica Frielinghaus” [frielinghaus@zalf.de](mailto:frielinghaus@zalf.de), Chairperson of the German Soil Science Society, organized a roundtable with policy-makers, soil scientists and farmers, on the sustainable use of soils in the German State of Brandenburg (Soil Protection: Prevention against Soil Erosion; Prevention against Soil Compaction)). In fact, Germany, since 1998, has a Soil Protection Act and its implementation is the task of the federal states. So, for this progressive on-going duty, World Soil Day is a splendid opportunity: on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2002 was the first meeting to present the work already done; on the 5<sup>th</sup> December 2003, there will be a meeting in a farm which is to be launched as a learning and advice Center for the Brandenburg State; so World Soil Day appears to be a chance for Germany where Soil activities are very active and increasing.

#### The European Soil Initiatives

Political actions

A European directive towards Soil Protection is under final discussion. This political and administrative action is important, as it will imply many concrete consequences, especially in Education. So, we have to understand that here, political actions are helpful and efficient for the development of the Soil Education field.

European sites

<http://www.cordis.lu/science-society>

This is a site where we could take the opportunity to develop soil science as we wish.

<http://forum.europa.eu.int/Public/irc/env/Home/main>

This is the address for a European site, which is a place where to be informed, and where one can discuss:

If you click on it, then on “Soil policy”, then on “Library”, then on “Research”, then on “Soil research projects in the 5th Community Research Framework program”, you will obtain the Word File which gives the list of the work being done on Soil under the broad framework of the European Commission in Bruxelles. It is a long way to get there; and the list is long too !!

Eurosoil 2004 (06/09 to 12/09/2004) Freiburg, Germany.

A Symposium Soil Education and Pedology is organized with C4.4 and C4.5, (Convenor: M.Dosso, <mailto:dosso@cnearc.fr>; Co-convenor: L. Herrmann (University of Hohenheim, Germany) <mailto:herrmann@uni-hohenheim.de>)

There is a call for contributions on two main issues:

Developing awareness about the importance of Soil for Societies

Every educational initiative addressing non-scientists, and scientists and professional from other disciplines (than Soil Science) are welcome.

Renewing of teaching in Soil Science

Examples opening (and demonstrating the relevance of) soil science to other disciplines are welcome as well as using new media for teaching.

For the first issue, C4.5 is specially concerned; for the second issue, C4.4 is more concerned. So, please think about it, and don't hesitate to send your contributions !

<http://www.forst.uni-freiburg.de/eurosoil/>

*Continued on Page 33*

News from France

Two ministries towards Soil

The NSSS from France, A.F.E.S. (Association Française d'Etude des Sols) organized on the 11th of June 2003, a special conference day, in Paris, dedicated to Soil Education. It has been organized with the help of two ministries: « Ministry of Agriculture, Food, Fishing and Rural Affairs » and « Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development » (and we would appreciate a third one: the Ministry of Education!).

A not only French participation

For this day, we were pleased to get foreign participation from Australia, Belgium and United Kingdom. This confirms that soil education problems do not only occur in France and that the problem is real and is found in different countries of the « old Europe » as well as in more recent ones.

Three interesting messages:

Stephen Nortcliff, secretary general of the IUSS, from UK, who was one of the first speakers, insisted on the tremendous importance for Soil Education for the next 4 years to come, and put emphasis on the primary education. Pamela Hazelton, vice-president of the Commission C4.4, from Australia, talked about Landcare, which is a good example of how to develop awareness about Soil for people who don't know anything about it. The Landcare program as it exists in Australia is a good way to learn about soil and become aware of its importance in sustaining life. This social experience, accessible to everyone whatever the age and functions, is really effective, and definitively allows every citizen to feel deeply concerned with Soil! On such a civic basis, one can imagine that Soil Education can be facilitated ...

This example was perfectly illustrating the point of view of Alain Ruellan (2<sup>nd</sup> Past President of IUSS) who told us that the priority was first to teach about what is Soil in the field: how to identify it, how to describe it, how to take into account its diversity, etc. A teaching which is to be made in all the different levels of education, so that one day, the word Soil will have the same meaning for everyone... scientist or not.

Contributions

This section can accommodate direct contribution from individuals (without taking the deviation via NSSS). Data from different contributors could be: poems, images, drawings, websites addresses, Email, etc ... or whatever. Any news which could be interesting to dispatch via IUSS C4.4 Newsletter, can be sent to the following Email: [dosso@cnearc.fr](mailto:dosso@cnearc.fr)

**C4.4 Mailing list: if you wish to receive the Newsletter as an Email attachment, please send your Email to : [dosso@cnearc.fr](mailto:dosso@cnearc.fr)**

Letter to the Editor (C4.4 Newsletter)

This section will provide discussions, and allow exchanges of ideas. For example, questions addressed to C4.4 could be published there; and concerned people will be able to answer, and to openly discuss... therefore, working groups, interested in a same subject can be created.

For example, C4.4 received (Email from 14/06/03) questions about what exists on the subject of promoting soil science teaching at elementary school:

We have been discussing the subject of promoting soil science teaching at elementary schools in our soil science society (see <http://www.honeybee.helsinki.fi/sms>), and we would like to have some international contacts in the subject, especially aiming at initiatives for the EU's Science and Society – programme in FP6 (see <http://www.cordis.lu/science-society/>).

Martti Esala

President of the Finnish Society of Soil Sciences

<http://www.honeybee.helsinki.fi/sms>

Dr. Mireille Dosso - Chairperson C4.4, IUSS

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# CONFERENCES

**Send information about upcoming conferences, courses, seminars or workshops to be advertised here**

|      |                |   |
|------|----------------|---|
| 2004 | February 3-28, | International Conference on Sustainable Management of Sodic Lands, Lucknow, India.<br>Contact Dr DV Yadav. Email <a href="mailto:dvylucknow@rediffmail.com">dvylucknow@rediffmail.com</a> |
| 2004 | July 4-9       | ISCO International Soil Conservation Organization Conference.<br>Brisbane <a href="http://www.isco2004.org">www.isco2004.org</a>  |
| 2004 | December 5-10  | ASSSI/NZSSS Supersoil Conference, University of Sydney<br><a href="http://www.icms.com.au/supersoil">www.icms.com.au/supersoil</a>  |
| 2006 | July 9-15      | 18th World Congress of Soil Science, Philadelphia, USA <a href="http://www.18wcss.org">www.18wcss.org</a>   |
| 2010 | July           | World Congress of Soil Science, Brisbane  |

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Public Liability Insurance is available from March 31 2003 to members of the Australian Society of Soil Science Inc. Insurance is arranged by The Australian Society of Soil Science Inc through brokers Fitzpatrick and Co with Liberty International. Please contact the ASSSI office if you are interested in public liability insurance.

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