



Australian Society of Soil Science Inc

PO Box 1349 Warragul Victoria 3820
Ph 03 5622 0804 Email office@asssi.asn.au Web www.asssi.asn.au

April 2008

From the Editor: *Profile*

Dear *Profile* readers,

As I will be on leave in June I need to produce the June edition of *Profile* before the end of May. I suspect it will be a short issue due to lack of time on my part, but if you have any pictures, stories, letters etc that will help make it longer, I would love to receive them as soon as you can send them. (Contact via Phone: 02 6626 1319 Fax: 02 6628 3264 Email: rebecca.lines-kelly@dpi.nsw.gov.au Post: 1243 Bruxner Highway, Wollongbar NSW 2477)

Best wishes, Rebecca

Rebecca Lines-Kelly

NRM extension specialist, Conservation Action Unit, Wollongbar Agricultural Institute, NSW Dept of Primary Industries

From the Organising Committee of the Soils 2008 Conference: Soil – The Living Skin of Planet Earth

It has come to our attention that a few abstracts submitted late in February for the Soils 2008 conference may have fallen victim to an email server malfunction. Anyone who submitted an abstract to this conference is asked to ensure that their abstract was received by clicking on the link below and checking the List of Papers.

If your paper does not appear, then please use the link on that page to email us a copy of the abstract you submitted without delay.

We regret that this problem may cause a short delay before we can confirm your place in the programme, but anticipate being able to email you by mid May. Whether your paper is to be presented orally or by poster, you should be planning to send us your extended abstract by 1 July.

[Click Here to view a paper list for Soils 2008](#)

Thanks

Vince Neall

Chairman

Other Soils 2008 Conference issues – flights and billets

In the 1st and 2nd Circulars for the conference, OzJet was promoted as the sole airline providing a direct Sydney/Brisbane-Palmerston North service. Unfortunately, four days before this service was due to commence (March 31st, 2008) it was cancelled by the airline, leaving Palmerston North without a direct service to Australia. At this stage, all Australians travelling to Palmerston North in December will have to fly into Auckland or Wellington and then transfer to a domestic flight or find another means of travelling to Palmerston North. One of the pre-conference fieldtrips will be running from Auckland to Palmerston North, and may represent a convenient and interesting way of getting to the conference.

ASSSI Branch Presidents have been advised that the New Zealanders are happy to explore the possibility of organising billets (free bed and breakfast in Palmerston North town) for a limited number of PhD students attending the conference. If there is sufficient demand, the Organising Committee will proceed with this plan. PhD students looking to avail themselves of this opportunity should let their Branch President know as soon as possible.

ASSSI Web site NEWSFEED and ARCHIVES now available

New features to the Society web site include a soils-related news feed on the home page of the Society web site. The society is trialling this product for 5 months and would be interested in knowing if it is of value to our members. The news link feature provides the headline of news articles related to soil and a link to the complete article. Since the trial commenced 47 articles have been scrolling on the news feed found on the lower left side of the Society home page.

Members interested in reading past issues of *Profile* and its predecessor *Soil News* can now access all issues (1959-2007) on the *Profile* archives page. The information in past issues provides a fascinating insight to the development of soil science in Australia over the past 50 years and is well worth visiting.

ASSSI clothing order form available online

Another addition to the Society web site is on the Publications and Shop page where ASSSI clothing can be viewed and ordered via email. Members can purchase polo tops (\$45) polar fleece vests (\$45), cotton-poly rugby tops (\$50) and hats or caps (\$20) in a range of colours and sizes. The page will be available for members in early May.

ASSSI free job listing on Society web site for soil science positions

The Society is offering to place a complimentary advertisement on the home page of the web site to promote relevant soil science positions. It is hoped that this service will be of value to members whether they are recruiting staff or looking for a new job. If you have a position to advertise please email your job description (maximum of 150 words and subject to editing) to the ASSSI Federal Office.

Final reminder for payment of subscription dues

This will be the final Soil Crumbs delivered to members that have not paid their subscription dues for 2008. The password to the restricted access members section will change next month and correspondence will only be forwarded to financial members. To pay your 2008 subscription dues please use the online payment system on the Society web site using the Member Subscriptions tab on the left side of the screen; <http://www.asssi.asn.au/index..php> or contact the federal office to arrange for an alternative method of payment to be used.



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May 2008

New Password for restricted access area of the Society web site

The member password will be amended on Monday June 2 to **bolus** and the username will remain as **asssi** (note that the password and username text is not colour sensitive). Members will be able to access the June edition of Profile on Monday using the new password.

Conference Online appearing on members credit card statements is for ASSSI subscription dues payment

Some members have contacted their banks and requested a recall on their subs payment when they find Conference Online appearing on their credit card statement. When members start the online payment they are advised that Conference Online will appear on their credit card statement and several notices have been sent to members advising that the online system has been outsourced. The cost to the Society is around \$27 for each recall which will be passed onto the member recalling the payment.

ANZ Soils 2008 Conference: Soil – The Living Skin of Planet Earth

The extended abstract submission deadline has now closed, and the Organising Committee reports that around 280 abstracts have been received. Advice about the mode of presentation for all submitted abstracts will be distributed in the next few weeks, and the on-line registration facility for this conference is now open at the following (new) website: www.soilsconference.co.nz

ASSSI Web site now has soil science equipment suppliers page

Another new feature to the Society website is a soil science equipment suppliers page. Please let the Federal Office know of any useful soil science related products that could be included on this page. Currently, soil tapes and tensiometers are listed but the page could be expanded to carry questions from members. To look at the page visit <http://www.asssi.asn.au/publications/suppliers.php>

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Soil Symposium and Field Trip

The Queensland Branch have extended an invitation to members and colleagues to join international and national soil scientists for a one-day symposium, field trip and dinner addressing the theme "Soil Solutions for a Changing World" at the University of Queensland St Lucia campus on Tuesday July 1. Agenda, registration download form or online registration is available via the ASSSI website Calendar page, <http://www.asssi.asn.au/calendar/calendar.php>



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July 2008

Welcome to ASSSI Tasmania

The Society now has a branch in Tasmania and welcomes the new Branch Executive led by President Dr Richard Doyle. The inaugural branch event will be a field trip in early November around the Midlands/Southern region culminating in a spit roast dinner. So if you are visiting Tassie in Spring try to coincide your trip with the Tasmanian Branch activity and learn about some of our more southern soils. For further information contact Rich at The University of Tasmania on 03 6226 2622 or mobile 0419 992 264.

IUSS Council Inter-Congress meeting a great success

Soil scientists from across the globe descended on Brisbane for the IUSS Council's Inter-Congress meeting in late June. Papers and photographs from the symposium and field trip run by the QLD Branch will be available on the Society web site next week from the Downloads page. The IUSS Divisions and Commissions have now finalised the symposia for the 2010 Congress in Brisbane and the Council members in attendance were impressed with the preparations for the Congress.

NZ Conference registrations now open – great value with the strong \$AUS

With the current exchange rate it is a great time to register and pay for the national soils conference in New Zealand. For example, using the exchange rates on 16/7/08 the \$NZ804 conference fee converts to \$AUS629 and student registration at \$NZ450 converts to \$AUS356. Book online via <http://www.soilsconference.co.nz/page.php?1> or use the link on the ASSSI home page to access the conference site. Details of the field trips are also available and can be booked and paid for online.

Airfares to NZ Conference – discounted flights available

If you are going to the NZ conference it is worth checking for discounted airfares on a regular basis until you find one. Dr Stephen Cattle, ASSSI President, has booked his return Sydney Auckland flights for \$447 with Emirates. A quick check of the web on July 16 found Sydney to Auckland with Virgin Blue \$300 and \$270 each way including taxes and Air New Zealand Sydney to Wellington at \$341 each way including taxes.

NZ conference – student accommodation billet update

If you are a student member of ASSSI and are interested in being billeted in NZ during the National Soils Conference please register your interest immediately with your branch president. Branch presidents will be forwarding their lists to the Federal Office shortly and then accommodation will be arranged by the NZ committee. Remember that this offer includes bed and breakfast only in the home of one of the local soil scientists/researchers, and is being offered to students free of charge.

BONUS – New Zealand newsletters are now available to ASSSI members

A new bonus for our members is they can now access the New Zealand Society of Soil Science newsletters from the ASSSI web site. The complimentary exchange of newsletters between the societies is seen as a great advantage and adds value to soil science membership without adding to the cost. The NZ newsletters are available via the Newsletters icon on the home page; third slide out option is the NZSSS Newsletter. Newsletters are in the restricted members section where the password to access the newsletters is bolus and the username is asssi – no spaces before or after the text.

The Daily Dirt on Soil

The home page of the Society web site has been displaying a live news feed on soil related articles since April. The trial will conclude in September and the Executive would like to hear your opinion on whether or not the articles have been of interest and/or value to you. Please send your comments to the Federal Office office@asssi.asn.au before the end of August.

Help support a student study a Masters Degree in Cambodia - ASSSI donations-online facility

Federal Council recently approved a proposal from Dr Alice Melland to assist in collecting donations for a student, Ouen Savin, to study a Master Degree in Cambodia. Alice met Savin whilst teaching a Soil Science subject at his university in Cambodia in 2005 and was impressed with his exemplary academic record, dedication to developing his country through his studies and his volunteer efforts translating lessons and course notes into Khmer along with his profound aspiration to contribute to peace, justice and prosperity in Cambodia.

Please consider making a donation of \$25 or more by following the instructions on the ASSSI website or using the following link <https://www.conferenceonline.com/index.cfm?page=booking&object=conference&id=12273&clear=1&forceHB=1> . A donation from you will contribute to the \$US 2000 fees and \$US 5000 living expenses that Savin needs to study a 2 year Masters Degree in Rural and Economic Development in Cambodia. All donations will contribute directly to Savin's educational expenses as Conference Online are making the donation software available at no cost and Louise our web master from Wizard Web Design has donated her time in setting up the web pages.

Your donation, large or small, will make a significant difference to Savin's education and future job opportunities.



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August 2008

Society web site password reminder

To access the restricted members section of the web site the password bolus and the username is asssi – no spaces before or after the text.

National soils conference reminders

- The deadline for early-bird payment of registration fees is September 22. After the early bird offer closes you can expect to pay an additional \$115 for your registration so it is worthwhile to book early.
- There are still cheap airfares available; Emirates and Air NZ are currently offering reduced fares from eastern Australian cities to Auckland and Wellington.
- Our New Zealand colleagues have advised us that the motels in Palmerston North are heavily booked during weekdays, all year round. Delegates are advised to book their accommodation as early as possible if wanting to stay at motels. There is accommodation available on campus for \$60 per night and this can be booked at the same time that you register.
- Students wishing to have a billet in NZ are reminded that they must contact their Branch President and register their interest. The offer is only available to students and provides bed and breakfast in the home of a committee member at no cost. Branch Presidents are to forward their lists by the end of August to the Federal Office.

Positions vacant on the Society web page

Currently the home page of the web site is advertising for a;

- Geochemist specialised in the relationships between soil, solution and plant. Position is based in the Congo, and
- A Regional Director of the International Plant Nutrition Institute. Position is based in Australia.

Small pointer ads are placed on the Society home page at no cost, so if you are wanting a job keep checking the home page or if you are looking for staff send a copy of the job description to the ASSSI Federal Office.

The Daily Dirt on Soil

Our contract with Meltwater News to provide the daily media feed to the ASSSI website is about to end. Members are encouraged to provide feedback to the Federal Office on how worthwhile this service has been, and whether the Federal Council should look to continuing this, or a similar, service.

Branch events and other activities

Don't forget to keep checking the Coming Events page on the web,

Sun 21 - Wed 25 September, 2008	The Australian Society of Agronomy 14th biennial conference Australian agronomists will address the big challenges facing agriculture - including climate change and variability, uncertainty over energy supplies and resource use efficiency.	Adelaide, SA	Dr Therese McBeath
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Friday 26 September	Harald Jansen Lecture – ASSSI NSW Branch activity. More details shortly	Sydney, NSW	Dr Jane Aiken
Wed 1 - Thu 2 October, 2008	<p>Implications for food production and 'Soil Science' in a changing climate - ASSSI SA Branch Field Trip</p> <p>Annual lecture on Wednesday October 1 by Prof Bob Gilkes, University of Western Australia.</p> <p>SA branch field trip around Adelaide's food and wine growing regions on Thursday October 2. First we will tour the Northern Adelaide Plains visiting vegetable growers to see how they are overcoming their soil and water issues and to identify potential areas for future research. We will also visit D'Vine Ripe, the 7ha glasshouse of hydroponic tomatoes to investigate the science behind growing in these systems and the place the soil scientist can potentially play within them. We will then venture to the Barossa Valley to see how the wine grape industry is reusing their waste water and the implications of doing so.</p>	Perth, WA	Melissa Fraser
Sun 12 - Wed 15 October, 2008	<p>AWA/AIEH Onsite and Decentralised Sewerage Conference</p> <p>Call for Abstracts and Workshop Outlines</p> <p>Achieving Best-Practice by 2012: How Do We Do It? The time is ripe for a new set of regulatory, technological, institutional, managerial and economic solutions. Conference Themes: What does best-practice look like? What do we need to change to achieve best-practice? How will we know when we are there? What are the next steps? Who will champion achieving best-practice by 2012?</p> <p>Speakers Abstracts List</p> <p>Abstract Preparation Guidelines</p>	Benalla Performing Arts and Convention Centre, Benalla, Victoria	Web site
Tue 29 October - Fri 1 November, 2008	<p>International Meeting on Soil Fertility Land Management and Agroclimatology</p> <p>In this area graced with abundant natural beauty, we will discuss thoroughly the soil fertility, land management and the effects of climate change on soil and agriculture with the contributions of the esteemed scientists. Important studies conducted by eminent researchers will be shared in oral and written presentations during the conference.</p>	Kuşadası, Turkey	Prof. Dr. Gönül Bilgehan AYDIN
November 2008	<p>Inaugural Tasmanian Field Trip</p> <p>The Tasmanian branch will be holding their first activity, a field trip and spit roast, in early November. Further details will be available on this page in October.</p> <p>Don't miss the chance to be part of history and have a good time while learning about soil</p>	Tasmania	Richard Doyle
Fri 21 November, 2008	<p>Leeper Lecture</p> <p>The Leeper Lecture is held annually in memory of Prof. Leeper and commemorates an important aspect of soil science.</p>		
Mon 1 December - Fri 5 December, 2008	<p>ANZ Soils Conference</p> <p>Massey University</p>	Palmerston North, New Zealand	Sarah Siebert



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October 2008

Branch Activities

Tasmanian Branch – Field Trip and Spit Roast Dinner Friday 7th November RSVP to [Richard Doyle](#)

Victorian Branch – Leeper Lecture and Dinner Friday 21st November Leeper Field Trip Saturday 22nd November

http://www.asssi.asn.au/downloads/Leeper%202008%20invitation_101008_.pdf

South Australian Branch – AGM and presentation of 2008 Student Travel Bursary Awards . RSVP and Further details contact [Therese McBeath](#)

Soils 2008 Conference New Zealand – Soil the living skin of planet earth

The programme has now been finalised and can be viewed at www.soilsconference.co.nz.

For those who have not registered, please do so without delay. Some of the field trips are fast approaching their capacity, and some registrants may have to be accommodated with their second choice. Vince Neall,, Chair, Soils 2008 Organising Committee

Discussion paper on Managing Australian Soils released

Late last year the National Committee on Soil and Terrain commissioned a Discussion Paper on Managing Australian Soils (prepared by Andrew Campbell, former ED of Land and Water Australia) to highlight the issues, encourage public debate and provide a mechanism to enable stakeholders to have input to the national policy discussions on soil management. Contributions will be considered to help plan a strategic approval to soil management and are not only welcome but also critical to achieve a coordinated and collaborative national approach to this issue.

The Discussion paper can be downloaded from the Australian Collaborative Land Evaluation Program (ACLEP) website <http://www.clw.csiro.au/aclep/SoilDiscussionPaper.htm> The closing date for the comments is Monday 8 December 2008 – to Cynthia Maher DAFF – see above web-page to obtain the Feedback form with guiding questions.

The Federal Executive will formulate a response on behalf of the Society, but members and/or Branches are encouraged to send their comments to the ASSSI Office prior to November 28th so they can be incorporated into the ASSSI response.

2009 CPSS diaries can be submitted

CPSS who have completed 50 hours of ongoing professional development this year are encouraged to submit the 2009 OPD diary. The diary is available from the CPSS Downloads page on the Society web site.

2009 Geotalia Conference – Call for abstracts

The VII Italian Forum of Earth Sciences will be held September 9-11, 2009 at Rimini Italy. There will be a session on Use diffuse reflectance spectroscopy and soil colour calculation in soil science to evaluate anthropic impact and environmental degradation indices. Information can be found at

http://www.geoitalia.org/index.php?action=doc_detail&doc_id=993&folder_id=143 or contact Michele Sellitto sellitto@unimol.it

Change in Society Federal Executive

Dr Alice Melland has accepted a 4-year research position with TEAGASC, the department of agriculture in Ireland where she will be part of a large program that is investigating the impacts of farm management and EU regulations on water quality. Sadly Alice has resigned as Federal Treasurer, but happily Dr Cameron Gourley, a member of the Finance Review Committee has accepted the position of Treasurer until the Annual General Meeting in December this year.

Reminder about the proposed change in the Society Rules

The Federal Council have put forward suggested changes to the Society's Rules. These changes have been placed on the Rules page of the society web page, <http://www.asssi.asn.au/MO/general/constitution.php>. Changes can be viewed and downloaded using the username asssi and the password bolus. Members will be asked to vote on the proposed Rule changes in mid November. If you have any queries please contact ASSSI Federal Secretary [Brendan George](#)

ASSSI Student Sponsorship program update

Donations to assist Ouen Savin of Cambodia study for a Masters Degree now total \$725. Donations can still be made online using the link on the home page and will be forwarded to Savin in the new year by Dr. Alice Melland [Donation Link](#)

Positions Vacant

Reminder that soil science positions are posted on the home page of the web site at no cost. If you would like to advertise a position or scholarship please forward the information to the ASSSI federal office. If you are looking for a position in soil science please keep checking the home page.



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November 2008

New CPSS Board chair appointed

Dr David McKenzie is the new Chair of the CPSS Accreditation Board. The Board also welcomes new member Ian Hollingsworth from the Northern Territory to the Board for the 2009/2010 term. Mr Graham Price has retired from the Board after many years of service as both a board member and Chair. Members of the Board and Federal Executive sincerely thank Graham for his excellent contribution.

Society Annual General Meeting at the ANZ Soils Conference next week

The annual general meeting of the Society will be held on Monday December 1 at Whararata, Massey University, Palmerston North, New Zealand, commencing at 5.45 pm (New Zealand time). Nominations for executive positions can be forwarded to the Federal Secretary and must be received in writing and signed by two members 7 days prior to the meeting (please refer to the Society Rules on the ASSSI web site for full details)

Voting for proposed Rule changes

Votes can now be cast for or against the proposed Rule changes online at <http://www.asssi.asn.au/MO/general/constitution.php> - remember the username is asssi and the password is bolus as the voting form is in the restricted access members section of the web site. Voting closes 5.00 pm Friday November 28, 2008.

South Australian branch activity

On Thursday 27th November the SA Branch has organised for their student travel bursary winners to give the 15 minute talks they will be presenting at the National Soils Conference in New Zealand. Presentations commence at 4.00 pm at CSIRO Building 1 at the Waite Campus, followed by the annual general meeting, drinks and pizza. For further information please ring Therese McBeath 08 8303 8107 or email therese.mcbeath@adelaide.edu.au

Discussion paper on Managing Australian Soils released – members comment sought by Federal Executive by November 28

Late last year the National Committee on Soil and Terrain commissioned a Discussion Paper on Managing Australian Soils (prepared by Andrew Campbell, former ED of Land and Water Australia) to highlight the issues, encourage public debate and provide a mechanism to enable stakeholders to have input to the national policy discussions on soil management. The Discussion paper can be downloaded from the Australian Collaborative Land Evaluation Program (ACLEP) website <http://www.clw.csiro.au/aclep/SoilDiscussionPaper.htm> The Federal Executive will formulate a response on behalf of the Society, but members and/or Branches are encouraged to send their comments to the ASSSI Office prior to November 28th so they can be incorporated into the ASSSI response. The closing date for the comments is Monday 8 December 2008 – to Cynthia Maher DAFF – see above web-page to obtain the Feedback form with guiding questions.

2009 CPSS diaries can be submitted

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Positions Vacant – two currently advertised on home page

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