

# MINUTES

## Executive meeting, face to face and teleconference. Christchurch NZ

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2010  
6.00 PM NZ DST



### 1. Present.

Sandy Lloyd (SL) – President  
Trevor James (TJ) – Vice President, NZ  
Alex Douglas (AD) – Secretary/Treasurer  
Rex Stanton (RS) - NSW  
Aaron Maxwell (AM) – WA  
Catherine Borger (CB) - WA  
Kerry Harrington (KH) – NZ  
Ian Popay (IP) - NZ  
Michael Hansford (MH) –Vic  
Ian Faithful (IF) – Vic  
Jonah Gouldthorpe (JG) - Tas

Michael Widderick (MW) – Qld (proxy)  
Lavinia Fiedler (LF) – Qld (proxy)  
Laurie Greenup (LG) – NSW (proxy)  
Shauna Potter (SP) – SA (proxy)

John Virtue (JV) – Observer, IPP

### 2. Apologies.

Rachel McFadyen (RMcF) – Qld  
Dorean Erhart (DE) – Qld  
Warwick Felton (WF) - NSW

### 3. Additions/Alterations to the agenda.

Item 7.3 (guidelines for CAWS funded visitors) was resolved at the last meeting.

Additions to the agenda

7.4 Amendment to the allocation of CAWS funds – include potential changes to the constitution.

7.5 CAWS orators 23<sup>rd</sup> APWSS and 17<sup>th</sup> AWC.

7.6 TJ has some issues to raise about some dubious conference delegates.

Correspondence as included in email (see also below)

#### **4. Adoption of the minutes from 3 June 2010.**

There were no changes required to the minutes.

**Motion # 09/10 01.** KH moved that the minutes be accepted.

Seconded by CB and RS. Unanimously accepted.

#### **5. Presidents Report.**

No prepared presidents report.

SL has found to last 12 months as CAWS president to be quite stressful and unpleasant. AD and SL have both come close to resigning.

#### **6. Secretary Treasurer Report.**

Correspondence In

Letter received from NSW regarding membership.

Letter CC'ed from WSV in response to NSW re CAWS funds letter

Letter CC'ed from WSQ in response to NSW re CAWS funds letter

Auditors report received

Changes to email details – Rachel Melland ([rachelmelland@live.com.au](mailto:rachelmelland@live.com.au))

Correspondence Out

Letter NSW with response to their concerns.

Travel award recipients' contacted and award monies sent.

Travel award recipients bios received and details loaded on the website

Finances

A reconciliation was circulated with the agenda.

CAWS has paid the invoice for WSWA for 2008 Weed Wise nursery award.

Have also paid annual internet charges and for the auditor.

NSW are still to pay their membership fees.

Majority of outgoings associated with teleconference charges, Book publishing.

**Motion #09/10 02.** IF moved that the financial and secretarial reports be accepted.

Seconded by IP. Unanimously accepted

#### **7. Business arising from the minutes.**

##### **7.1. CAWS medal nominations**

Two nominations for CAWS medal have been received and both have been successful. One nominee is present at the NZ conference and will receive a medal during a presentation ceremony. The other nominee is not at the NZ conference and will receive their medal at an appropriate function to be organized.

Second nominee will not be announced until their presentation ceremony – to be kept as a surprise.

## 7.2. National newsletter

Kathryn Batchelor was to source quotes to get this started.

**Action** AM to liaise with Kathryn and if necessary will progress with an out of session paper.

## 7.3. Guidelines for CAWS funded visitors

Resolved at the June 2010 meeting.

## 7.4. Amendment to the allocation of CAWS funds – linked to possible changes to the CAWS constitution.

### Administration

Currently a secretary/treasurer is appointed, one position. It should be included that this position could also be split (i.e. a secretary and a treasurer). CAWS is incorporated in Australia and banks in Australia. It would be very difficult to transfer banking/monetary administration to NZ. AD has offered to remain as Treasurer during TJ's term as President to ease financial management.

### Voting

This is quite a complex issue and will need a sub-committee to do some work on the constitution, we can't really discuss potential wording here.

### Membership fees

Need some details about payment/non-payment etc.

IF – according to the current constitution – each society shall pay an annual membership fee, by a certain date each year – this is quite unambiguous. Membership payments can be delayed (through absent mindedness or changes to executive) so if we interpret the constitution as “shall pay by a certain date” and if they do not then are no longer members of CAWS.

Model rules for constitutions (WA) have been circulated (under point 8 - termination of membership of association) a) notice in writing b) non payment of membership, c) regarding expulsion of a member).

Needs some rewording so as to specify what happens should a society withholds a payment and also something to address expulsion of member(s) should a member(s) bring CAWS into disrepute. This needs further discussion.

Membership fees – previously had discussion and motion regarding having \$1 per member fee (rather than set cost per block of 50 members) but this was rescinded as did not get the paperwork to DOCEP in the allotted time.

*[\$1 per member was determined to be unconstitutional (notes from Cairns meeting 2008) and according to the constitution had to revert back to the set amount per 50 members.]*

NZ - not all society members are weed members.

Need volunteers for a smaller sub-committee to address the topics discussed here. (SL and TJ will be part of this group).

Members of CAWS are not the delegates but other incorporated societies.

SL would like approval that legal advice be sought on altered/additional wording prior to changes becoming official.

Also need inclusion of wording to cover 'declaration of conflicts of interest' and electronic banking.

TJ – not keen on dealing with the whole constitution at once as it would be too big a task (get very little feed back/ comments if circulate a long complex document).

Identify all of the points that need addressing and deal with all of the changes to sections one at a time and then put all of the changes together.

SL has spoken to DOCEP but they would only deal with very basic legal issues.

The proposed changes to the constitution needs to be circulated to and considered by the member societies for 2 months prior to acceptance/rejection.

#### 7.5 CAWS Orators

For the 17<sup>th</sup> AWC (NZ) the CAWS orator is Paul Champion, a NZ weed expert. His attendance at the conference has been fully paid by his organization. Not seeking any reimbursement.

The 23<sup>rd</sup> APWSS candidate for CAWS orator is Joe Di Tomaso, Uni. California Davis. Likely that will also be giving a talk in Melbourne this has been approved in principle by the WSV. The application was not circulated 1 month prior to this meeting and will be considered at the December meeting.

#### 7.6 Dealing with 'bad behavior' in conference delegates.

TJ – There is a culture amongst some overseas scientists for trying to get free publication of their papers by registering for a conference, submitting a paper and then at the last minute withdrawing and getting a refund on their registration fee.

One delegate at the 17<sup>th</sup> AWC has gotten past the checking system and TJ asks that we blacklist him from other CAWS related conferences. [This person built up a very plausible case as a bona-fide delegate and has since withdrawn and requested a refund, as well as a copy of the proceedings. According to the fine print of our conference guidelines he is entitled to a refund of all bar \$150. TJ intends to give him a refund but will charge him outrageously for the proceedings (at least \$150) and postage and would like permission from the committee to let him know that he is blacklisted from any other CAWS conference].

We need a clause in the conference guidelines that once a paper has been accepted for publication that there will be no refunds.

Include the name of the delegate in the conference report and advise other societies not to accept papers from this person;

Prof. Guru Prasad Satsangi

Make addition to the conference guidelines of the existence of 'rogue' delegates. Make a live list of rogue delegates as more conferences occur. Wording of refunds changed so that once a paper has been accepted for publication no refunds of registration fees will be made except on the discretion of the organizers (medical etc). Legal advice to be sought if required.

## **8. Reports from Member Societies.**

*The reports from member societies are compiled in a separate document circulated with these minutes.*

### 8.1. Report from SA

SP presented the SA report.

SA society has made a submission to the Natural Resources Committee of the SA parliament, public inquiry into invasive species and received an invitation to appear before them.

Have collated the responses evaluating the State weeds conference and these will be useful for running the 2012 weeds conference.

### 8.2. Report from Vic

MH presented the Vic report, with IF.

Have had two committee meetings since the last CAWS meeting.

A questionnaire circulated to members regarding upcoming events.

Planning AGM seminar (April 2011).

2012 conference continues to come together – information card in 17<sup>th</sup> AWC satchels, now a web site for 18<sup>th</sup> AWC (18awc.com).

Dick Mack has been approached as CAWS orator and he has agreed to come.

8-11 October 2012

SL had proposed to have a CAWS workshop at the NZ conference but not very many delegates had been available for the NZ meeting. Propose that we hold this in 2012 in Victoria if possible.

### 8.3. Report from NSW

NSW report was circulated with the Agenda.

### 8.4. Report from WA

AM tabled the report from WA.

Seminars held on 2/9 John Ruprect (ED DAFWA biosecurity in WA), changes to biosecurity legislation. Guy Preston seminar in July, spoke on invasive weeds encountered in the working for water program in South Africa.

### 8.5. Report from NZ

TJ presented the report from NZ.

Appears to be a successful 17<sup>th</sup> AWC.

Previously held a conference in New Plymouth with approx 50 delegates and associated symposium on molecular techniques, PCA to pasture.

Earlier this month presented the most weed wise nursery award to a nursery in Keri Keri.

Next conference in Rotorua in August 2011, symposium on using or maximizing the natural defense mechanisms of plants.

SL moved a vote of thanks for TJ and KH and the others, all of the work that they have put into the conference.

### 8.6. Report from Tas

JG presented the Tas report.

Tas soc had a meeting last week with local councils to run training courses targeting improving hygiene with regards to weeds and movement of machinery etc.

State conference in October 2011 started organizing.

Capacity to get conferences together is limited as most people already have a full time job.

Trying to get a patron for the weed society – a high profile TV personality.

Also looking at getting a special features section going in the newsletter (Tas Weeds) that other groups or parties could use to get more support for funding etc. (Give lobbyists more evidence to support their cause).

### 8.7. Report from Qld

MW presented the report from Qld.

Organization for the 11<sup>th</sup> Qld weed symposium in McKay, August 2011, progressing.

Producing the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of weeds of southern Qld.

Making some changes to the web site – now have a pest animal branch.

Biological control of weeds in Australia (CSIRO) book – Qld will provide \$8,000 towards this publication, not \$1000 as previously stated.

## **9. General Business.**

9.1. Discussion of potential changes to the CAWS constitution

This topic has already been covered under 7.4 – Business arising.

SL has suggested that we write a letter to Julia Gillard as there is still not a lot happening with money set aside under previous election promise (\$15 million) weeds funding that was to compensate in part for the dissolution of the Weeds CRC. There may be some leverage as the independents now hold the balance of power.

Also target the independents?

Letter should also some of the history of the CRC and its value as many of the people that we need to contact will not have any prior knowledge of this.

JG happy to help with finding the correct people to target such a letter to maximize its chances of action.

**Action** SL to draft letter and circulate to JG.

MW – has heard that with regard to the \$15 million set aside for weed research that there will be a call for 6-12 month projects sometime in October.

A round table discussion was held earlier today between SL, TJ, RS to discuss the issues raised by NSW and have come to an agreement as to how we can move forward. Develop a strategic plan.

Address funding for conference applications as they arise.

Difficulties arose from constitutional interpretation and differences in opinion. Double check our procedures for clarification.

## **10. Next Meeting**

Our next meeting will be Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 9am WAST.