

**Council of Australasian Weed Societies**

**DATE** 9 June 2011

**TITLE** President's Report

The major development over the past three months has been the re-vamp of the constitution. This was necessary for a variety of reasons including bringing it up to date with current practices and technology. However, another matter is that it also now had to reflect the difficulty that we face (along with most other "voluntary" organizations) in getting enthusiastic volunteers to carry out some of the humdrum jobs. Hence the separation of the Secretary and Treasurer roles to ease the work loads of those positions. As it is I am going to owe Kerry big-time for coercing him into the minute secretary role which has sort of grown into the secretary role by default. And thanks also to Alex for continuing on as Treasurer.

Another concern addressed in the new-look agenda is the issue of a voting majority. Traditionally, and in most organizations from governments down, a simple >50% majority has been the norm. However, with the structure of CAWS with two delegates from each member society, it was conceivable that a motion could actually be passed by a minority number of member societies. This issue has been partially addressed by raising the voting majority to 66% or greater. However, I don't see this as the only solution. To me it would be better if we had a full muster of delegates at each meeting of the executive so I can't stress enough the importance of these four meetings each year. And in that respect another change to the Constitution has been to spell out more clearly the option of using a proxy if a delegate can't attend (and there will always be valid reasons for this). All that is required to use a proxy is to get some-one to agree to it, give them the agenda material for the meeting and let the Chair (President) know (by email is acceptable) prior to the meeting.

Thanks to Rex, Michael and John (a past president) for a huge effort in getting the revision to this point.

Also I need to stress the importance of delegates taking the revised constitution back to their respective societies and obtaining their approval or feedback. If there is going to be a problem with doing this in a timely manner (i.e. prior to the September meeting) please get back to me.

Next will be the Strategic Plan but one thing at a time.

Other items dealt with in the past three months are progress of the various conferences that CAWS is associated with.

The 23<sup>rd</sup> Asian-Pacific Weed Society Conference in Cairns in September appears to be on-track and all papers should have been submitted by now. However I think the conference is going to be smaller than anticipated, certainly with fewer papers it appears.

The 18 Australasian Weeds Conference is still a while away but all the required background work appears to be going well with venue sorted and paper referee list created etc.

There is still no recent news of the 6<sup>th</sup> International Weed Control Congress in July next year in China! No call for papers or invite or registration etc!!!

Similarly WA's application for the 7<sup>th</sup> IWCC for Perth in 2016 is in stasis. The preliminary application has been received but no further developments. Possibly as the IWSS tries to sort the China situation. Maybe they shouldn't have banned Google!

Kind Regards

Trevor James, CAWS President