

Annual Report

Council of Australasian Weed Societies

DATE 8 September 2011

My first year as President began rather ominously with a series of natural disasters in both Australia and New Zealand. The combination of earthquakes, floods and hurricanes impacted us all. Added to that is their long term effect on the environment and some of us will be still dealing with that in terms of weed invasion and spread.

The major effort this year has been the re-write of the constitution which is currently with the member societies for ratification. Changes to the constitution were required to meet current practices and practicalities. Two areas of concern were fiscal management and voting. Fiscal management required greater transparency and to reflect greater responsibility on the use of CAWS funds. The change in voting procedure was to ensure that important resolutions could not be passed by a minority of the member societies. Additionally the role of Secretary/Treasurer was redefined as either a split or combined role, depending on circumstances. Thanks to Rex, Michael and John (a past president) for a huge effort in getting the revision to this point.

On completion of the Constitutional changes, the Strategic Plan will be reviewed.

With the CAWS sponsored Australasian Weeds Conferences falling in 2010 and 2012, this year has been quiet although Victoria has been working hard on planning for the 18 AWC in Melbourne from 8-11 October 2012. Tasmania will host the next conference (19 AWC) in 2014.

CAWS has an investment in the 23rd Asian-Pacific Weed Science Society conference to be held in Cairns 26-29 September 2011. Hopefully this will go well and give us a return on investment.

There is now a recent newsletter from the 6th International Weed Control Congress organizing committee. The conference will be held from 17-22 June 2012 in Hangzhou, China. Abstract submission will be available on the web site from 15 September to 15 January.

There is no further news on WA's application for the 7th IWCC for Perth in 2016.

This year we congratulate three recipients for the CAWS Early Career Travel Awards. The recipients were; Ronny Groentman, Jenna Malone and Carol Rolando, who all received \$2000 (either Australian or New Zealand).

Kind Regards

Trevor James, CAWS President