

Tasmanian Weed Society

Annual General Meeting

March 28th, 2003. 12.45 pm
Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, Launceston.

Minutes

Present: Greg Stewart, Dean Zeven, Andrew Bishop, Stephen Welsh, Cindy Hanson, Tony Ferguson, Doug French, Sandy Leighton, Karen Stewart, Revel Munro, Stuart Smith, Adrian Geard, David Elliott, Christian Goninon, Tim Rudman, Sharon Young.

1. Welcome: Andrew Bishop, President 2002/2003
2. Apologies: Jayne Shapter, Andrew Crane, Chris Moore, Kate Blood, Barry Batchelor, John Warren.
3. Minutes of the 2002 AGM.
Copies of the minutes of the 2002 AGM were distributed.

Motion: That the 2002 AGM minutes be accepted as a true record of that meeting.

Moved: AG

Seconded: DZ

Accepted: All

4. President's Report
Andrew Bishop distributed copies of his report for 2002 (see attached) and gave a verbal summary.

Motion: That the President's report for 2002 be accepted.

Moved: AB

Seconded: TR

Accepted: All

5. Treasurer's Report
Dean Zeven distributed copies of the treasurer's report for 2002 (see attached) and gave a verbal summary.

Motion: That the Treasurer's report be accepted.

Moved DZ

Seconded: KS

Accepted: All

6. Secretary's Report
Cindy Hanson distributed copies of the secretary's report (see attached) and gave a verbal summary.

Motion: That the Secretary's report be accepted.
Moved: CH
Seconded DZ.
Accepted: All

7. Election of Office Bearers

The election proceeded as follows

Position	Nomination	Moved	Seconded	Accepted /Not Accepted
President	CH nominated AB	DZ	TR	Andrew Bishop accepts
Vice President	AB nominated DZ	CH	KS	Dean Zeven accepts
Secretary	GS nominated KS	CH	DZ	Karen Stewart accepts
Treasurer	CH nominated DZ			Dean Zeven does not accept
	CH nominated SY	CH	TR	Sharon Young accepts
Newsletter editors	TR nominated CH, SL, AC	TR	KS	Cindy Hanson, and Sandy Leighton and Andrew Crane (<i>in absentia</i>) accept
Northern Rep	KS nominated GS	KS	CH	Greg Stewart accepts
North West Rep	CH nominated SY	CH	DZ	Sharon Young accepts
Southern Rep	DZ nominated TR	DZ		Tim Rudman does not accept
	AB nominated SL	CH	DZ	Sandy Leighton accepts
Public Officer	TR nominated himself	TR	CH	Tim Rudman accepts
Publicity Officer	(subsequent discussion agreed that	AB	DZ	SL, SY and GS accept

	regional reps should undertake publicity responsibilities collectively, depending on the location of events to be promoted.			
CAWSS delegates	AB nominated TR AB nominated DZ	AB AB	CH TR	Tim Rudman accepts Dean Zeven accepts

8. CAWSS item for comment – amendments to CAWSS constitution
 AB has received response to the invitation to respond to proposed changes to the CAWSS constitution. No other responses were received at the AGM.
9. Strategic Plan presentation and discussion.
 AB invites membership input to TWS draft strategic plan over April 2003. Draft due for finalisation by July 2003.
 Comments:
 CG- input from members will help prioritise activities.
 SW: TWS should play a stronger lobbying role but this capacity is compromised by number of DPIWE staff on the executive.
 DE: Input by TWS to development of three regional NRM plans should be considered.

Meeting closed 1.30pm

President’s Report 2002/03

Membership

A key focus for the Executive Committee this past year has been re-building a sound membership base. Following the TWS hosting of the 12th Australian Weeds Conference in 1999, and a loss of Tasmanian Weed Mapping Network members following a merge between TWMN and TWS financial membership rapidly declined over the previous two years. Faced with an impossible operating situation and only a handful of financial members, the 2002/03 Executive initiated activities to rebuild the membership base. These activities included contacting lapsed members, promoting membership matters via Tasweeds, and establishing a strategic focus with the aim to rebuild the level of financial membership to at least 50 members by March 2003. I am pleased to report that we have exceeded the target with a total membership of 55 and membership applications are still being received. A membership of 100 people this time next year could be realized and per-capita this would make TWS one of the largest of the weed societies in Australia.

An issue that I feel I should raise is the need for a greater involvement of membership in initiating and facilitating TWS activities. One of the objectives in the draft strategic plan is that the TWS Executive Committee positions be keenly contested. A vibrant dynamic committee requires regular input of new blood, ideas, and thoughts. Please give serious thought to nominate for a role on the Executive at the elections in a short while.

With the establishment of an email list (see below) it will now be easier to canvas members for their thoughts and ideas. The recent electronic survey of members about ideas for this year's seminar series has resulted in the 2003 program. Other ideas received will be incorporated into future activities.

Strategic Planning

Once membership was seen to be rapidly re-building, Executive focus turned to the long-term future of TWS. Based on similar activities occurring in other weed societies around Australia and adopting a planning framework used by the Victorian Weed Society, we have prepared a draft strategic plan. This has incorporated the information received in past member surveys and planning sessions. The plan has been forwarded to all members and, at the time of writing, feedback and ideas from members is being sought. The plan will also be presented at this AGM and discussion and comments welcomed. In the interests of establishing a long-term and directed future for TWS, the draft plan, along with member comments, will be presented to the 2003/04 TWS Executive Committee for finalisation and recommendations for subsequent adoption.

Tasweeds

Our quarterly newsletter continues to grow and is rapidly progressing towards the position of Tasmania's premier weed management publication. The 2002/03 Editorial Committee (Cindy Hanson, Sandy Leighton, and Andrew Crane) have redesigned the layout of the publication, and during the year the Tasmanian Weed Alert Networks 'Spotter' publication was incorporated into the newsletter thus expanding its potential audience. The Editorial team should be congratulated on such a sterling effort. We have also reintroduced the newsletter mailouts as an avenue to deliver other 'weedy' items to members at no extra cost such as the recent delivery of the safe pesticide application guidelines.

Seminars

Although not as many TWS seminars were held as we would have liked, October saw the running of three State-wide workshops with the visit of Danish weed scientist Bo Melander detailing his work on Physical and Non-chemical weed control in Denmark. All workshops were very well attended, particularly the southern one. This also generated media coverage for the TWS and was an opportunity to promote the TWS to non-members, an activity that no doubt has contributed to our recovery in membership.

Now truly established on TWS events calendar are the annual seminar series. These are now in their third year and have proved very popular.

Weedbuster Week

The TWS continues to have an involvement in WeedBuster Week and recently has undertaken a lobbying role profiling the importance of this event for Tasmanian weed management to the State government and requesting continued State government contributions to ensure the event will be conducted in coming years. TWS has also agreed to provide some funding towards a facilitator and continues to sponsor the biennial Golden Woody Awards. This provides us additional media coverage and media profile.

CAWSS (Council of Australian Weed Science Societies)

The triennial in-person meeting of CAWSS was held in Perth at the 13th Australian Weeds Conference. These meetings were attended by Christian Goninon (CAWSS Representative-Tasmania) and myself (proxy for Tim Rudman, CAWSS Representative-Tasmania). A range of issues were discussed at the meeting and motions carried. I was fortunate enough to be elected Vice-President of CAWSS at that meeting, a role I have recently taken up. Thus there is a good Tasmanian presence on CAWSS now that augers well for our participation in Society activities and issues at a national level. A CAWSS Physical and Cultural Weed Control working group was approved following the presentation of a TWS agenda paper to the National Council. This group will be developed in coming months and will be managed from within TWS; it will consist of a network of weed scientists, agricultural engineers, farmers, practitioners and interest parties with formal links to the European Weed Research Society working group. Negotiations are currently underway with South African weed scientists for the establishment of a similar group. The group could act as a publicity vehicle for TWS thus generating more membership.

Web site and email communication

The TWS web site (www.angelfire.com/nb/tasweeds) continues to grow and is a useful source of information on TWS and CAWSS events. The last 12 months have seen additional features added including a member's notice board, downloadable seminar notes and application forms, links to CAWSS, and other weedy events nationally and internationally. We are still using a 'free' service with Angelfire (with consequential drop-down adverts being the cost) but the new committee might like to consider the purchase of a domain specifically for TWS. With a building membership and members provision of email details, TWS has now established an email mailing list for most of its members enabling increased communication and rapid delivery of relevant information. The emailing system has been recently used for AGM/Seminar announcements, draft strategic plan distribution, and advice of proposed constitutional change for CAWSS.

And Finally....

The job as President on a Committee such as this is often one of the easiest and this is due to a tireless and dedicated committee. Against all odds, the committee have done a great job and I would like this opportunity to extend my sincere thanks to each and everyone of them. They are:

Past President, Vice-President, & Public Officer: Tim Rudman
Treasurer: Dean Zeven
Secretary: Cindy Hanson
North West Rep: Karen Stewart
North Rep: Greg Stewart
Southern Rep: Christian Goninon
Newsletter Editors: Cindy Hanson, Andrew Crane, Sandy Leighton
CAWSS Reps: Tim Rudman, Christian Goninon

Well done folks, its been great working with you.

Treasurer's Report 2002/03

(Insert Treasurer's report Times New Roman, 10 point font, bold heading)

Secretary's Report.

Membership

- 51 financial members (see attached) represent a significant improvement from previous year.
- Total comprised of 6 community group memberships, 8 corporate memberships and 37 individual memberships.
- membership form included in each issue of *Tasweeds* for 2002/2003. This, availability of the form on the website and availability at presentations/events are the main means by which recruitment is undertaken.
- Potential for more active recruitment strategies.

Correspondence (Secretary).

Correspondence (incoming and outgoing) over 2002/2003 was fairly light. Subject matter related mostly to:

- Bo Melander Tasmanian visit arrangements.
- CAWSS housekeeping
- General membership liaison
- AGM speaker organisation

Executive meetings.

Executive meeting were held:

- 26th March 2002, Prospect

- 2nd July 2002 (email)
- 19th September, Campbell Town
- 21st November 2002, Prospect
- 29th January 2003 – Strategic Planning Meeting