

NEWSLETTER TO MEMBERS
May 2009

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of AAAC was held in Wagga Wagga, NSW on Tuesday 7 April 2009, following a successful Professional Development workshop attended by 20 consultants.

Bob Hudson stood down from the Presidency after 5 years in this role. His contribution to AAAC both recently and in the past is gratefully acknowledged.

The result of the election of Office Bearers for the next year is as follows:

President:

Robert Patterson, Cootamundra NSW

Executive Committee Members:

David Price, Murray Bridge SA
John Maynard, Devonport TAS
Jeff Clewett, Toowoomba QLD
Glenn Shepherd, Dubbo NSW
Daryl Poole, Echuca VIC

David Price, John Maynard and Jeff Clewett are continuing members, while Glenn Shepherd and Daryl Poole are new to the Executive, providing a better age balance to ensure that AAAC remains relevant to all members of the Agricultural Consulting profession.

Service delivery from AIAST National Office in Canberra is much improved during 2009 under the leadership of AIAST CEO, Diana Melham.

One of the first tasks of the new Executive is to prepare Terms of Reference for the provision of administrative services to AAAC, and to negotiate this with AIAST National Office. A greater independence from AIAST also continues to be negotiated.

Professional Development Workshops

The Professional Development Workshop held on 7 April 2009 in Wagga Wagga focused on business management issues including succession/retirement planning for consultants.

Ian Benjamin who has been engaged as a facilitator for previous workshops, again performed that role, along with speakers from NAB Agribusiness and Marcus Elgin of AAG Investment Management.

NAB Agribusiness have again agreed to sponsor Professional Development workshops in 2009 in New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia, but at a reduced rate in line with tightening economic conditions. AAAC gratefully acknowledges this financial contribution from NAB Agribusiness.

Preliminary plans for future AAAC Professional Development workshops are as follows:

VIC	Late August possibly at Attwood (near Tullamarine Airport)
TAS	Late July in Launceston
QLD	Early September in Toowoomba
SA	Early November in Adelaide

50th Anniversary of the Agricultural Consulting Profession

A very successful event to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Agricultural Consulting profession in Australia was held in Canberra on Thursday 23 April 2009.

This function and dinner was attended by around 50 people, most of whom were former or present members of AAAC. Attendees heard of the contribution that the profession has made to agricultural industries both locally and overseas during the past 50 years, while Neil Inall facilitated an interactive session on how the profession might position itself in the ever changing environment of the future.

AAAC Executive Committee

Members are encouraged to make contact with their state based Executive member or the President, with ideas for future events, functions and roles in which AAAC should be participating.

Best Wishes
AAAC Executive Committee

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