

ASPAC Digest – June 2023

16th Edition, June 2023

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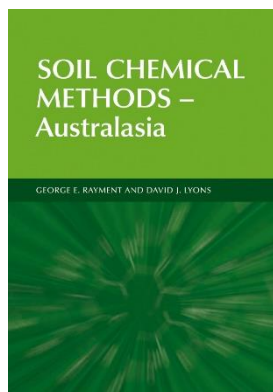
Chairperson's Update

Welcome to our latest issue of the ASPAC newsletter.

At our recent AGM in Canberra 2022, there were a few changes to the executive team roles. Firstly a special thank you to outgoing Chair Chris Gendle whose outstanding commitment to ASPAC meant our core activities continued despite the challenges over the past couple of years. We are very thankful Chris is staying on board the executive as Western Australian representative. The rest of the committee will be continuing in their current roles for the next 2 years: Nell Peisley (ACT & Vice president), Kraig Sutherland (Treasurer & TAS), Mathew Wheel (Secretary & SA), Paul Kennelly (VIC), Rob Dehayr (QLD), Abduhl Kader (Pacific), Will Bodeker (NZ) and Steph Cameron (news).



Back row: Chris Gendle, Paul Kennelly, Mathew Wheel, Rob DeHayr, Will Bodeker and Warren Webber. Front Row: Graham Lancaster and Nell Peisley.



Now, you will no doubt be as excited as I am to hear that the next edition of the "Green Book" Soil Chemical Methods Australasia by Rayment, Lyons & Hill is currently underway with contracts soon to be signed. George and his authorship team, Dave Lyons and Roger Hill are already working together to submit the first six chapters.

You should have received your 2023 Membership renewal notice. If you are unsure you are a member please check your company/business has renewed. Any issues, please contact executive officer, Warren Webber: wwebber@outlook.co.nz

You will be aware later in June the Soil Science Australia and the New Zealand Society of Soil Science is being held in Darwin June 25-30 see <https://conference.soilscienceaustralia.org.au/>. Many of our ASPAC members will be in attendance and Nell Peisley and I look forward to catching up with you there and hearing all about how you have been travelling over the past couple of years.

Graham Lancaster

ASPAC Chair
2022-2024



ASPAC AGM 25 October 2023 Canberra, ACT

Please add to your diaries our AGM being held at CSIRO Canberra meeting room on October 25. This will include in person meetings with regard to ASPAC general business, Fercare, Green book update, member services and our sub-committee reports including:

Proficiency Committee: Roger Hill, Graham Lancaster, Paul Kennelly and a new team member Paul Milham.

Methods Committee: Chris Gendle, Paul Kennelly, Will Bodeker and Paul Milham. If you are interested in joining one of volunteer committees please feel free to contact one of the committee members above.

ASPAC Training Workshop 26-27 October 2023

This year's event will be hosted by the CSIRO Analytical Chemistry Group Agriculture and Food, Black Mountain Science and Innovation Park, Canberra, from 26th-27th October 2023.

With our last successful workshop being held at Lismore's EAL Southern Cross University in 2019 we look forward to again combining both Plant and Soil topics to be discussed and reviewed over two-days.

More detailed information and the registration form will be circulated soon. If you are interested in attending or presenting a topic, please contact Nell Peisley nell.peisley@csiro.au



ISSPA 2023 Symposium

Tuesday 21 to Friday 24 March 2023. Concepción, bio region, Chile).

Program link [Detailed Program - ISSPA 2023](#)

Graham Lancaster (ASPAC Chair) and Roger Hill (LPC Chair) attended. Rodrigo Ortega and his University team did an amazing job pulling this memorable symposium together. Presented successfully online and with nearly 80 onsite delegates, the final day, farm, vineyard and research station field trip was especially memorable ending in the Rocky Mountains at Rodrigo's family property for an amazing BBQ feast till 2am. Watch this space for selected paper content once available.

ISSPA 2025 Symposium Update

A bid has been accepted in principle for July/Aug 2025 in Quebec City, Canada. ASPAC has continued to be involved with the ISSPA International Governance Committee (IGC) with Graham Lancaster & Roger Hill as ASPAC representatives and Aryan Reijneveld (Netherlands) as Chair. Warren Webber (ASPAC Exec Officer) & Bob Miller (SPAC) will continue on the IGC in co-opted advisory roles.

2023 ASPAC Memorial Phil Moody Travel Award Announcement

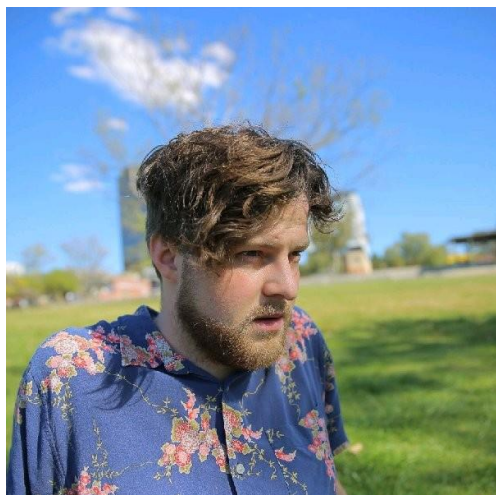
This year ASPAC are delighted to announce there were two winners of the Phil Moody Memorial Travel Award: Jowena Sim & Ben Rigby chosen for their chosen careers in soils. Both awardees received AUD \$1,000 each to assist them with travel expenses to the National Soils Conference.



Jowena Simm, from Mawson Lakes South Australia is a research associate with strong enthusiasm in research and teaching. She completed her Doctor of Philosophy (Environmental Science) at the University of South Australia in 2023 and is currently a full time postdoc in a South Australian Grain Industry Trust (SAGIT) funded project studying the effect of pesticides in microbial functions of various South Australian soil types.

Jowena's research includes optimizing the first Fiji National Action Plan against Antimicrobial Resistance and be scalable across other Pacific countries (CSIRO funded project, collaborating with the Secretariate of the Pacific Community, World Health Organization (WHO), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH), and Otago University).

Also, Jowena is investigating the effect of pesticides on agricultural SA soils microbial functions. (PhD project, UNISA- FII industries, funded by South Australian Grain Industry Trustee, SAGIT) and the antimicrobial activity of essential oils on pathogens associated with Otitis externa (Honors Project, UNISA).



Ben Rigby from Carlton Victoria, is a PhD candidate with the University of Melbourne. He is an enthusiastic and passionate agricultural scientist, who is building his theoretical knowledge of the soil-plant-microbial continuum onto his previous experience in horticulture. Ben was drawn to agricultural research because of an interest in agro-ecological principles.

Ben's research is about investigating ways of improving fertilisation efficiency through understanding soil, plant and microbial interactions with regard to plant nutrition. His honours studies focussed on investigating ways of increasing nitrogen fertilisation use efficiency in dryland cropping systems and understanding the activity of nitrification inhibitors in soil and how processes influence inhibitor efficacy.

Ben has developed his observation and technical skills whilst working for institutions such as the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), La Trobe University and The University of Melbourne.

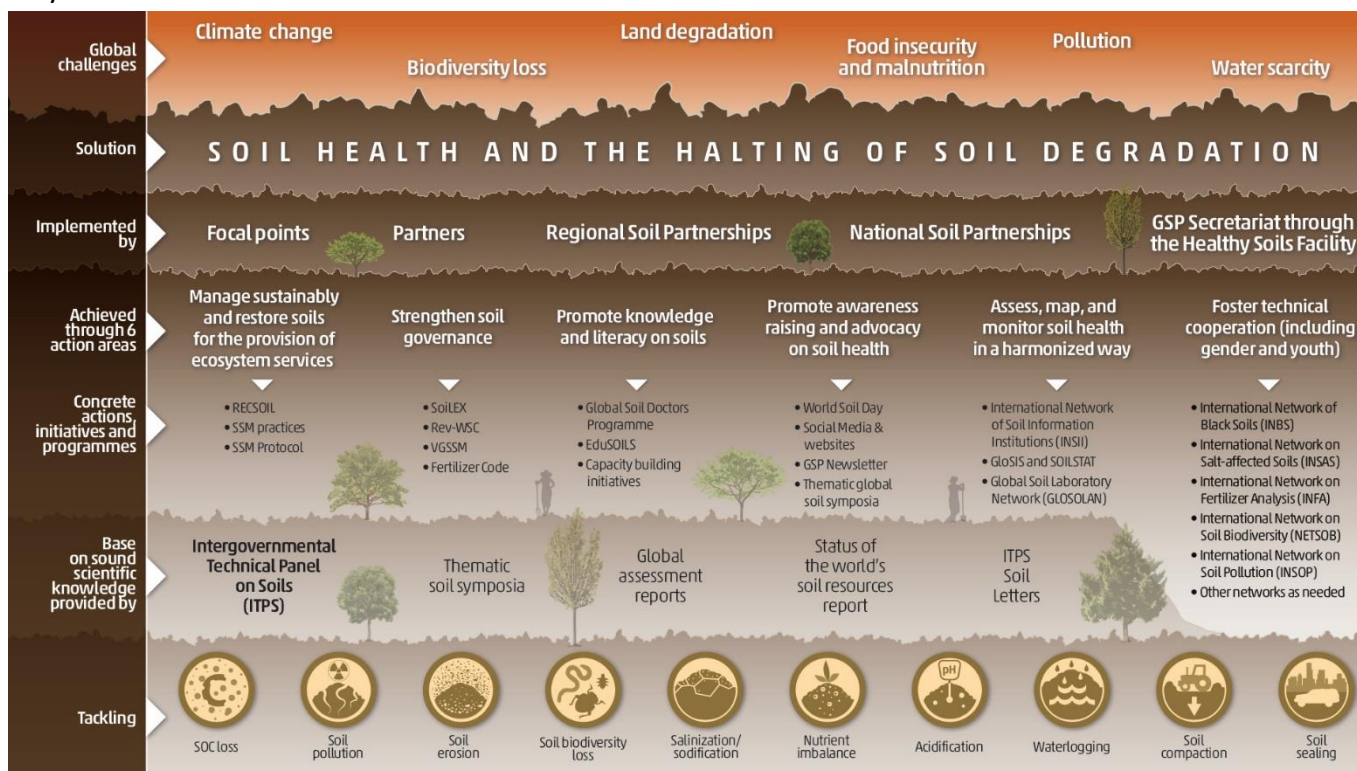
Global Soil Laboratory Network Update

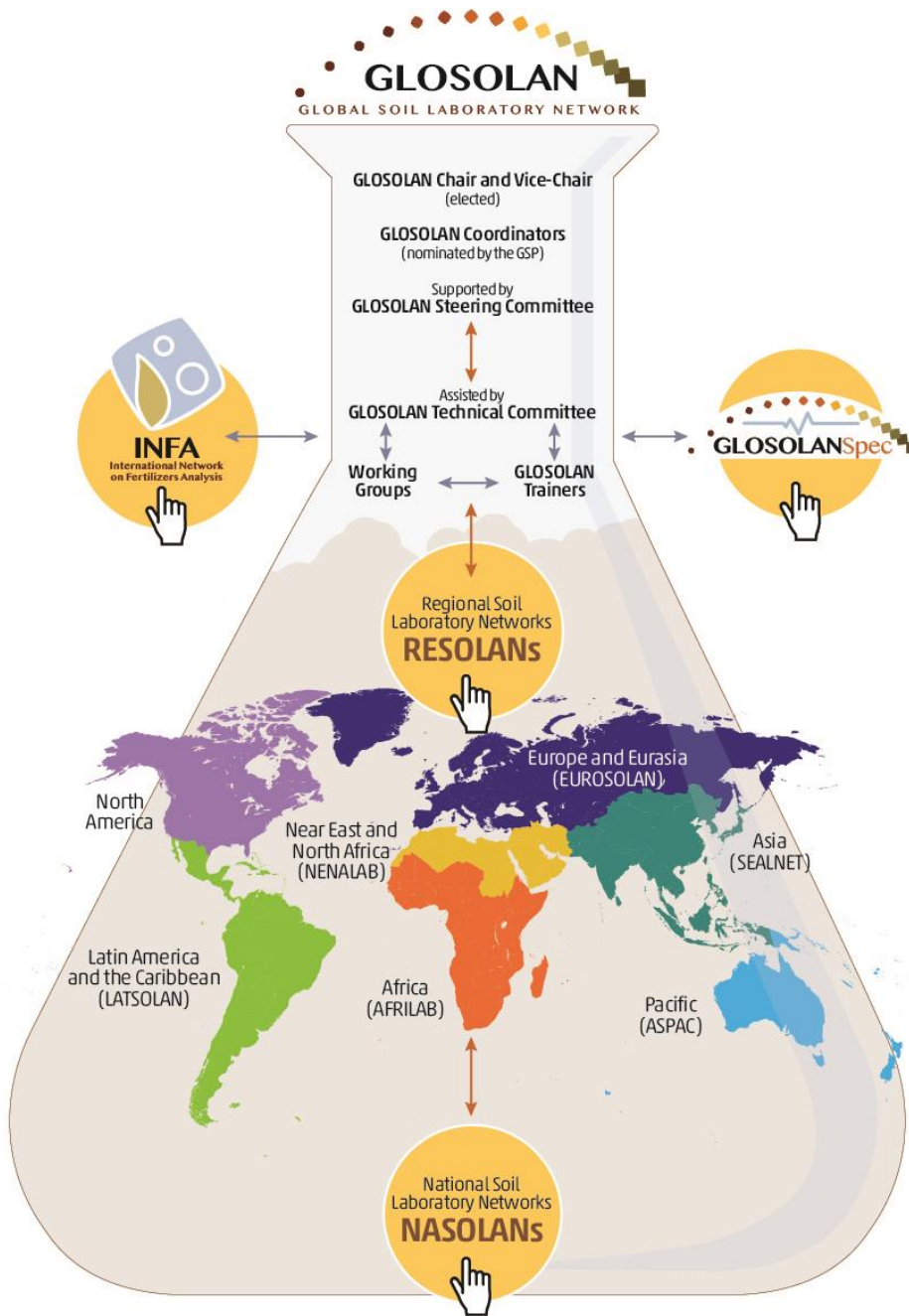
ASPAC OFFICIALLY RECOGNISED AS THE PACIFIC SOIL LABORATORY NETWORK OF GLOSOLAN

The Global Soil Partnership (GSP, <https://www.fao.org/global-soil-partnership/en/>) has a new action framework. The GSP now aligns on action areas, all focused to provide effective tools to promote a sustainable use of soil resources and improve soil ecosystem services, as these are key solutions to the global challenges reported in the upper part of the illustration.



Previously it was structured around five Pillars of which the Global Soil Laboratory Network (GLOSOLAN, <https://www.fao.org/global-soil-partnership/glosolan-old/en/>) was an integral component of Pillar 5: Harmonization of methods, measurements and indicator for the sustainable management and protection of soil resources. GLOSOLAN and laboratory activities are reported as concrete actions to tackle the main soil threats by monitoring soil health and providing underpinning data of soil resources in a harmonized way.





The GLOSOLAN structure was revised last year aimed to reinforce the governance of the network by establishing a Steering Committee together to support the Chair and the vice-Chair. Rob De Hayr represents ASPAC at GLOSOLAN meetings and is a member of the Steering Committee providing connection and contributing to GLOSOLAN activities.

GLOSOLAN participated to the 17th International Symposium on Soil and Plant Analysis (ISSPA) conference in Chile in March 2023 to present some of its key achievements and is likely to have representation on the International Governance Committee which will increase the potential audience allowing access to more than 800 laboratories globally.

GLOSOLAN through ASPAC is keen to organize more activities with labs in the Pacific Islands, like capacity building sessions.

For more information about GLOSOLAN and their activities please visit:

<https://www.fao.org/global-soil-partnership/resources/highlights/detail/en/c/1637053/>

Meet the 2023/24 ASPAC Executive



Graham Lancaster, Chairperson and NSW Representative

Graham has been manager of the Environmental Analysis Laboratory within the Southern Cross University at Lismore for more than 25 years. His primary interests are in biological and organic farming, along with sustainable agricultural practices. Graham is also involved in extensive research into environmental contamination and remediation options. Graham has been the current NSW ASPAC Representative for NSW since 2018.



Janelle (Nell) Peisley, Vice Chairperson and ACT Representative

Nell Peisley works with the Analytical Chemistry Group at CSIRO Agriculture and Food based at Black Mountain in Canberra. The key focus of the Group is to provide plant and soil analysis to CSIRO researchers and their collaborators. Nell has worked with the Group for the past 15 years and is a new addition to the Integrated Agriculture Systems research program. Nell has taken on the role of Vice President and ASPAC website facilitator.



Matthew Wheal, Secretary and South Australian Representative

After studying ecology of plants and animals for his BSc at the University of Adelaide, He completed a PhD in mineral nutrition of plants at the Waite campus. Matthew has also held various university research positions here in Australia and overseas during his career and currently Matthew works at the Australian Wine Research Institute analysing wines for research, production and export purposes. Matthew has been on the ASPAC Executive Committee for 12 years, as Secretary and SA representative.



Kraig Sutherland, Treasurer & Tasmanian Representative

Kraig is a graduate of the University of New England and has since worked in various environmental monitoring laboratories in northern Tasmania conducting instrumental analysis, wet chemistry and accredited method development. Kraig has been working with Ag-Vita since 2015 working with LCHAT and Agilent instrumentation analysing soil, water and tissue samples and is currently the laboratory manager. He is incoming treasurer for ASPAC. Kraig currently lives in Devonport and when he is not at work he likes to ride dirt bikes with his son and water ski with half of Devonport (my family).

**Paul Kennelly, Victorian Representative**

After a few short-term lab positions in the environmental and food testing industries, Paul joined Nutrient Advantage Laboratory Services in 1999. Paul took on the Laboratory Manager role in 2008. Paul has seen a lot of change over his 19 years at Nutrient Advantage, including the merger of two large fertiliser companies, Incitec Fertilisers and Pivot Limited to form Incitec Pivot Limited and the merger of their two large soil and plant testing commercial laboratories. Paul has been the Victorian Representative of the ASPAC Executive Committee for the last 6 years, past ASPAC Executive Committee Chairperson (2018-2020). When he finds the time, Paul enjoys bush walking, Australian Rules football and travelling.

**Rob De Hayr, Queensland Representative**

Rob, until recent retirement, managed the DES Chemistry Centre laboratories at the EcoSciences Precinct in Brisbane. His laboratory experience ranges over more than 40 years focusing on Soil, plant and water analysis. Rob has also spent time as a research scientist studying biogeochemical processes in groundwater-surface water interactions and the fate of particulate nutrients emanating from erosion processes.

**Chris Gendle, Western Australian Representative**

Chris is the Operations Manager at the CSBP Soil and Plant Laboratory which is a major commercial testing facility in Australia. Prior to his current role, Chris had roles as a Laboratory Technician and Chemist at the same Lab. He has been a member of the ASPAC Executive Committee for eight years and is a current member of the ASPAC methods committee, which provides technical assistance for the soil and plant testing industry.

**Will Bodeker, New Zealand Representative**

Will is currently the Laboratory Manager at ARL, a commercial agricultural testing laboratory based in the Hawkes Bay region of New Zealand. Will graduated from Victoria University with a degree in Chemistry in 2011 before joining ARL in 2012. Over that time Will has had a range of analytical and leadership roles across the lab. Will is a new addition to the ASPAC Executive committee, replacing Rebecca Withnall as the New Zealand representative late in 2018.



Md. Abdul Kader, Pacific Representative

Md. Abdul is currently senior lecturer with the University of the South Pacific at their Samoa campus. He holds both a PhD in Applied Biological Science and a Master of Science in Physical Land Resources option Soil Science from Ghent University, Belgium. Md. Abdul has written many research papers and has long expertise in cropping in the Pacific region, soil organic matter, paddy soils, soil nitrogen mineralisation and carbon sequestration.



Stephanie Cameron, Newsletter Editor

Steph is a qualified scientist who graduated from the University of Western Sydney Hawkesbury with a Bachelor of Applied Science in 1996. Since then Steph has gone on to become the business operations manager, director and co-owner of East West a local NATA accredited lab based in Tamworth. Steph has coordinated the newsletter and communications for ASPAC since 2018.



Warren Webber, Executive Officer

Warren started his tertiary days in humanities, moved onto agriculture and after a few years in farming, completed a veterinary degree. After 15 years in clinical practice he spent a decade as Director of Veterinary Continuing Education in New Zealand, responsible for conferencing, workshops and publications. Warren was co-opted by Roger Hill to assist with the ISSPA 2013 in Queenstown and he also managed the ISSPA 2015 symposium in Hawaii. Warren has been in the part-time role as Executive Officer for ASPAC since 2014.

ASPAC Executive Representative Contacts (2023-24)

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