

Minutes of the General Assembly

IAVS General Assembly, Perth, Australia

Friday, September 5, 15.45-16:30

Location: Auditorium, The University Club of Western Australia

The General Assembly was opened by President Martin Diekmann, who presented the following:

1. Membership Report

As of September 5, 2014 IAVS has 914 members, distributed across at 81 countries; details for the top 20 countries are shown below. The United States now has the most members; this is the first time that the top membership has not been in a European country.

Country	No. of members
United States	133
Germany	105
Australia	46
Japan	42
Spain	38
Italy	37
India	29
France	28
Brazil	26
Czech Republic	26
Finland	24
United Kingdom	24
Canada	23
Netherlands	22
Russia	21
Austria	20
Estonia	20
Hungary	19
Norway	17
Poland	16

2. Finances

The financial report for 2013 was summarized and these points noted:

- IAVS has stable or even slightly increasing income (mainly through our journals and profit share arrange-

ments with Wiley, the publisher)

- 2013: Total income = 130,940 EURO
Total expenses = 76,419 EURO
- 2013: Ending cash ca 380,000 EURO
- Dutch tax authorities have decided that because IAVS had been accumulating our revenue that we owed back taxes amounting to approximately 20% of unspent income over the past four years. This means that IAVS must balance expenses with income each year to avoid paying tax.
- In 2014, IAVS will have balanced income / expenses resulting from much higher financial support for people to attend the annual meeting and IAVS Working Group meetings

The financial report has been audited by 2 Council members: Otto Wildi and Ulrich Deil. The complete financial report is provided with the Minutes from the 2014 Council meeting at Perth.



Royal Hakea (*Hakea victoria*), a famous Proteaceae species of the Fitzgerald River National Park

3. Council business

Council business (including Minutes from 2014 meeting at Perth) will be printed in the IAVS Bulletin 2014/2. Highlights of the year include

- IAVS now has six Working Groups that have developed Bylaws that have been approved by Council
- The North American section is the first Regional section to adopt Bylaws
- There is a new section: Young scientists. The primary purpose of this new section is to promote the connectivity among early career scientists in IAVS.
- IAVS has contracted with FASEB (Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology) to provide business administration services. FASEB will provide support for society Governance, help with general administration, communication, membership management and accounting
- IAVS will legally organize in the US as a controlled subsidiary of IAVS in The Netherlands to facilitate administration and financial management. There may be tax advantages as well.

4. Publications (presented by Robert Peet)

The journals are doing well. Roughly 5,600 institutions subscribe with an additional 5,200 free member institutions. Income in the past year was ~130,000 Euro (see above under Finances). Impact factors are better than they have ever been. IAVS now has a more formal relationship with Phytocoenologia. IAVS participates in selection of Phytocoenologia editors. IAVS membership will be solicited for comments on the journals and feedback on editing.

The full report from the Publications Officer is published with the Council Minutes.

5. Meetings reports

5.1. Brno, Czech Republic 2015 (presented by Milan Chytrý)

The 58th IAVS symposium in 2015 will be held in Brno, Czech Republic from 19-24 July and will be hosted by Masaryk University. The theme will be 'Understanding broad-scale vegetation patterns and will include the topics:

- Patterns and drivers of alpha and beta diversity
- Plant community assembly
- Plant traits
- Phylogenetic community structure
- Vegetation survey
- Vegetation history over large time scales

- Patterns of vegetation change across landscapes
- Community invasibility
- Data sources for large-scale vegetation studies
- Vegetation in macroecological modelling
- Vegetation science serving nature conservation

Invited speakers are working in the forefront of the research on broad-scale vegetation patterns. There will be at least two post-symposium courses:

- Vegetation data analysis using the JUICE program by Lubomír Tichý
- Multivariate analysis of vegetation data in R: current practice by David Zelený & Ching-Feng Li (Woody)

Pre- and mid-symposium excursions will be to the Eastern Czech Republic (Moravia) and will include

- Podyjí National Park
- Pálava Biosphere Reserve
- White Carpathian Biosphere Reserve
- Lednice-Valtice cultural landscape

The post-symposium excursion (6 days) will visit the Western Carpathians from the Pannonian steppes to the Tatra summits.

Participants can fly to Brno, Prague or Vienna. Brno is the 2nd largest city of the Czech Republic with 384,000 inhabitants and is at the centre of the South Moravia region. Brno is famous as the city where Gregor Mendel, the botanist and "father of genetics", was active during his lifetime. The venue will be the Orea Hotel. There is alternative budget accommodation within walking distance from the venue.

Fees will be lower than in Perth and will be similar to fees in Tartu 2013. There will be reduced fees for students and financial support from the IAVS Global Sponsorship Committee.

5.2. Pirenópolis, Brazil 2016 (presented by Alessandra Fidelis)

Pirenópolis is located in the central region of Brazil. The dominant vegetation is Cerrado (savanna) with a large variation in physiognomy. The historical city of Pirenópolis is approximately 190 km west of Brasília (2 h 30 min travel). The conference venue will be the Congress Hotel Pousada dos Pirenéus, which has capacity for hosting congress of up to 1,000 participants and a recent history of hosting several national and international events. Brasília is serviced by many airlines. Bus transport will be available to and from the Brasília International airport to and from the congress. All major car rental companies have stands at the Brasília airport

Tentative dates are 13 to 17 June 2016. There are no interfering cultural activities at this time. It is also the end of rainy season but still fairly green with cooler temperatures during the day.

Mid-symposium excursions will be to:

- Serra dos Pirineus – cerrado and high altitude vegetation
- Vaga Fogo Reserve – semideciduous forest
- Cerrado vegetation – gradients from field to woodlands

Possible pre- and post-symposium excursions will be to:

- Jalapão (car; 4-6 days) – cerrado and gallery forests
- Serra do Cipó (plane, car; 5-6 days) – montane rocky fields, cerrado
- Anávilhanas (plane, boat, car; 7-8 days) – Amazonian black water forests, Amazonia terra firme forest, campina and campinarana vegetation
- Catimbau National Park (plane, car; 4-5 days) – caatinga vegetation
- Atlantic forest gradient (plane, car; 4-5 days)
- Pantanal (plane, car; 5-6 days) – freshwater aquatic vegetation, cerrado
- Brasília (car, 2-3 days) – cerrado, fire experiment

5.3. *Palermo, Italy 2017 (presented by Javier Loidi)*

The symposium will be held June 20-24 (Tuesday-Saturday). The theme will be "Linking the Mediterranean biological and cultural diversity". The pre-symposium excursion will be from June 11-18 (Sunday-Sunday). The focus will be on coastal landscapes of Sicily: Along the Sicilian coast, from Capo San Vito (NW Sicily) to Capo Passero (SE Sicily), including two days on the Island of Marettimo (max 30 participants). The post-symposium excursion will be from June 25 - July 1 (Sunday-Sunday) and will visit the Sicilian Mountains (for well-trained hikers): Etna, Nebrodi, Madonie (max 30 participants).

The symposium venue will be the Palermo Botanical Garden.

6. IAVS Awards (presented by Susan Wiser)

- IAVS Honorary membership (2014) was awarded to Kazue Fujiwara. The ceremony will take place at Brno in 2015.
- Announcement of Student awards for 2013

Young scientist Poster Award:

First

Guochen Kenny Png (Australia): „Do N-fixing plants show

higher root phosphatase activity on P-poor soils?“

Honorable mention

Talita Zupo (Brazil): „Do different disturbance types affect re-sprouting patterns of shrub species in cerrado?“

Ilka Strubelt (Germany): „Changes in species composition and richness in an alluvial hardwood forest over 52 years“

Young scientist Oral Presentation Award:

First

Angela Pannek: „Comparing resource-based and co-occurrence based methods for estimating species niche breadth“

Honorable mention

Christina Birnbaum: „Do soil microbes drive Acacia species invasion in non-native ranges in Australia?“

Jessica Parker: „Exploring the spatial and temporal dynamics of the relationship between precipitation and aboveground vegetation biomass“

Daniel Montesinos: „The puna vegetation of Moquegua, South Peru: Chasmophytic communities and grasslands“

7. IAVS at 60: Treasure the past, Promote the future

This will be a book written by us for us. The goal is to compile contributions of personal importance relating to IAVS activities:

- Involve all "ages": recent participants, past participants, long-term participants, new ones
- Personal essays, photographs, drawings, poems (funny or serious)
- Influence of IAVS on academic careers and personal lives.

To do this will involve accessing historical documents regarding IAVS history (Hartmut Dierschke, Joop Schaminée). Alexandra Martynova-Van Kley is starting to collect the "moments of IAVS meetings" and further ideas. Please e-mail her at avankley@sfasu.edu

8. Items raised by the participants

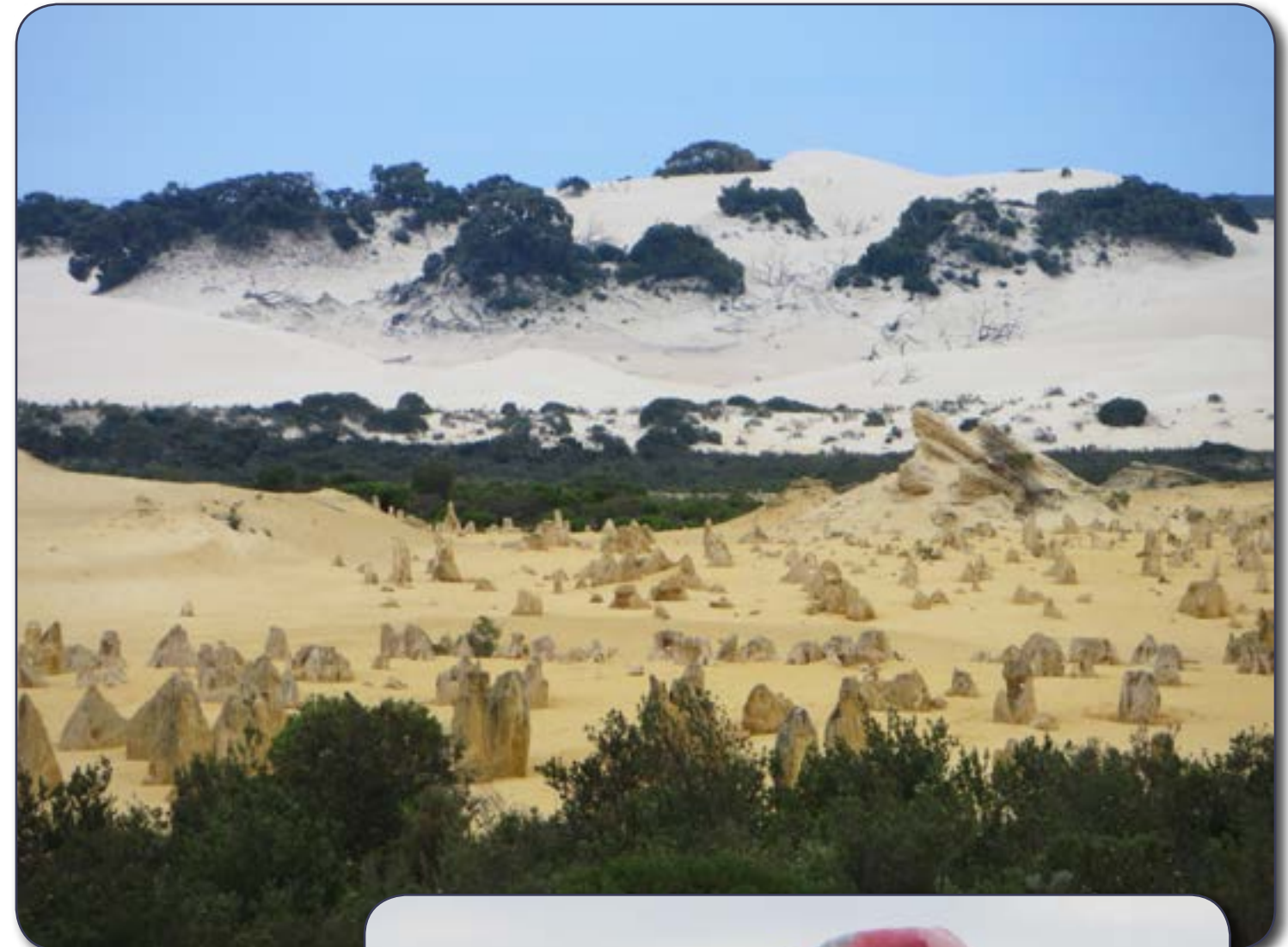
No items were raised

9. Thanks and gifts to the organizers

President Diekmann thanked the keynote speakers and the symposium organizers including Laco Mucina, Dagmar Mucina, Jesse M. Kalwij, Jodi Price and all the others in the LOC who helped to organize the meeting and excursions.

The General Assembly was adjourned by President Diekmann at 16:30.

Submitted by Susan Wiser, IAVS Secretary



Pinnacles National Park north of Perth, with inland dunes in the background



Pair of Galah parrots on a pinnacle