

The Weed Society of Victoria Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Have you ever had a question about the Weed Society of Victoria? Here are some questions the Secretary is asked regularly. We hope this provides some useful insights for our members.

What is the purpose of the Weed Society of Victoria Inc.?

The objects for which the Society is established are:

- a. To promote wider interest in weeds and their control.
- b. To provide opportunities for those interested in weeds and their control, to exchange information and ideas based on research and practice.
- c. To encourage the investigation of all aspects of weeds and weed control.
- d. To co-operate and, where appropriate, affiliate with other organizations engaged in related activities in Australia and overseas.
- e. To encourage the study of weed science and the dissemination of its findings.
- f. To produce and publish such material as considered desirable.
- g. To foster the development of an Australia-wide Weeds Organization.

Why doesn't the Society facilitate weed removal work?

Facilitating weed removal work does not align with our aims and objectives. We facilitate the networking and sharing of information between weed stakeholders through our members via our Weedscape newsletter and staging events such as seminars and our biennial conferences.

Who works for WSV and how is it administered?

The WSV Committee is made up of volunteers from a variety of backgrounds including state and local government employees with weed research and management roles, private industry employees and tertiary students.

The committee is voluntary with the majority of their efforts for WSV being completed outside of work hours. The Secretary is rewarded with a small payment under an honorarium system (i.e. not paid a wage) for the responsibility of administering the running of the WSV, the committee membership database and events

Why can't I always get a speedy response?

As the committee is voluntary, we can't always be on call. The WSV isn't a business, nor a government department. We are a dedicated group of individuals who commit our spare time to the WSV. Our committee members all have normal day jobs or study, so WSV is administered around these commitments.

Why has WSV introduced multi-year membership?

Multi-year membership has been introduced to:

- Reduce the time the secretary and treasurer spend processing payments which could be directed to higher-value tasks such as organising events
- Reduce the time members spend arranging payment for their membership renewal
- Reduce the need for paperwork and associated postage
- Reduce time the secretary spends chasing up declined and overdue payments
- Retain more members
- Benefit members by not requiring them to pay any membership fee increase until their next renewal

I wish to make a direct debit payment, what are your bank account details?

Commonwealth Bank BSB: 063195 Account number: 00900642

All direct debit payments MUST INCLUDE your membership/invoice number and surname/organisation so your payments can be traced and a receipt issued.

Is the WSV registered to collect GST?

No. The WSV is not registered to collect GST and will not be included in any amount issued on an invoice.

Why do conference/seminar speakers pay a registration fee?

Speakers are required to pay attendance fees to events as the WSV would not be able to cover the costs of all of the attending speakers. To cover the attendance fees for the speakers at WSV events would mean that staging such events would not be financially feasible for the WSV.

Although WSV events would not be possible without speakers to present, we also identify that there is a mutual benefit for the speaker in promoting their work to the scientific community, meeting their work requirements for publishing/ disseminating their work and are provided with the opportunity to gain knowledge and network with other attendees

Why can't I register for a conference after the cut-off date?

Registering for a conference needs to be completed as soon as possible to:

- Ensure you can still reserve a placement. The 2014 conference reached maximum capacity with many disappointed they could not register at the last minute. It is also crucial for us to confirm attendee numbers early as the venue will have a maximum capacity which cannot be exceeded for the purposes of fire safety legislation.
- Enable the caterers enough time to prepare for catering required
- Enable the WSV to communicate with the venue to ensure enough space and adequate facilities are provided for the registered number of attendees
- Ensure we have enough conference resources for all attendees

Where is the WSV office?

The WSV doesn't have an office location. The Secretary works from home, or wherever she may be with her laptop.

Why did the WSV change the PO Box address and phone number?

The WSV previously had their address in Frankston, a landline phone number and a fax. The WSV was established in 1966 by staff at the Keith Turnbull Research Institute (DEPI Frankston) with the committee members living within the area. In 2014, the staff from DEPI Frankston moved into new buildings at locations in Bundoora, Attwood and Knoxfield with current committee members both working and residing at or near these locations amongst others, so it no longer made sense to leave the PO Box in Frankston.

It was also decided with consideration to the future administration of the Society, we would no longer restrict ourselves geographically to a landline and fax machine. It makes being mobile and sharing duties much easier, especially with technology favouring email communication over fax.

How is the WSV funded?

WSV is not a business, nor is it a government department, nor government funded. WSV relies on membership fees received each year, any surplus there may be from conference or event registration fees after event costs and sponsorships.