

2002 Congress – Delegate feedback judges event a winner.

So far ¼ of the delegates to the November 12th have returned survey forms and the feedback is overwhelmingly positive. Delegates have commented positively on the generally high standard of the presenters and the information made available, the content of the program and the venue.

Unfortunately the event was disrupted on both days by preparations for the WTO trade ministers meeting that was held at the nearby Novotel – most of the disruption was caused by the physical riot control barriers that were erected in anticipation of the (small) protest that coincided with the WTO meeting on the 15th and by the NSW Police changing their security arrangements (seemingly at random) without telling anyone!

But these outside disturbances didn't impact on the Congress program and, from the positive feedback from delegates, didn't annoy them too much – (delegates; thanks for your tolerance and understanding).

The Downside....

Registrations reached 138, which in itself is a respectable number, but unfortunately fell well short of the number of delegates needed to generate operating cash for 2003.

The Association is still suffering from the loss of a major sponsor during the year and although we received valuable and much appreciated support from AFFA, Westpac, GRDC and RIRDC for the conference, lack of support for the conference has left us in a tenuous funding position.

If you or your organisation would like to help the Association by becoming a corporate partner, please drop us a line.

2002 Congress Proceedings.

Since the launch of Agribusiness Online, the Association has placed conference papers and supporting material on the web at some juncture after the event – usually with a delay of several months.

We are changing the access regime to the web site (see below) and as a consequence the proceedings of the 2002 Congress are effected in the following ways.

1. A decision has been made NOT to place the proceedings on the web for open public access.
2. The proceedings will only be placed on the web in a *members and subscribers only* (see below) section in 6 months time.

So the only way to secure a copy of the full proceedings (35 PowerPoint presentations and a total of 125 Megs of information) immediately is to order them from the Association.

The CD ROM is available to members for \$93.50 inc tax and shipping and to non members for \$187.

Changes to Agribusiness Online.

Since its inception the Association's web site has grown to become a valuable source of information to many in the Australian agribusiness sector and to many overseas. The web site is fully open for public access, partly to fulfil our charter of communicating information about agribusiness to the general public and partly to encourage membership and support from industry.

Unfortunately we have not been as successful as we would have like with the latter – in fact there are many in industry and government who use the site without any thought to how it is funded and maintained.

Well this will all change from early 2003!

We will be re-introducing passwords for full access to the site (members will be allocated passwords) and introducing a web site subscriber level membership.

The site will be divided into two sections –

1. A Member / Subscriber section (full access to all content, updates, reports, proceedings, publishing, etc.)
2. A Public section that will contain archived material and updates older than 6 months. (The public section will NOT include the Review and Perspectives, but will include abstracts from papers published).

This decision has been taken to a) add value to Association membership and b) to raise additional revenue from membership and subscription sales.

The security will not be onerous and should not detract from your use of the web site.

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(See *Agribusiness Online front page link for details*).