



Environment  
Institute of  
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## Tasmanian Divisional Newsletter

August 2011

Please enjoy this edition of the Tasmanian Divisional newsletter. We've held some successful seminars already this year, including a well-attended joint seminar on air quality with CASANZ in Launceston. Our What's Happening In My Back Yard (WHIMBY) seminars continue to be successful. You can read all about the seminars in this newsletter.

Your Tasmanian Divisional Chapter is joining the push for each Division to receive more funding from Central Operations to assist us in running local events. We will keep you informed of our progress.

A huge thanks goes out to our President Claire Brett for all the work she's contributed to our division. After six years on the committee and one and a half in the top job, Claire has decided it's time to focus on other areas (including a major house project). We will miss Claire and the energy she has brought to the role. Thanks Claire! A new president will be elected at the AGM at GHD in Hobart on August 24.

Kathryn Pugh, Newsletter Editor

Upcoming Event for Your Diary  
WHIMBY Seminar and Annual General Meeting  
Wed 24<sup>th</sup> August at GHD Salamanca  
WHIMBY – 5.30pm  
AGM – 7.00pm

**Don't forget the Annual Conference, this year being held in sunny Queensland!**

The conference is based around four themes:



- Dealing with uncertainty in a world that does not understand risk and foresight
- Managing country holistically and sustainably
- Engaging people in ways that matter and have positive impact
- Future Directions for environmental professionals

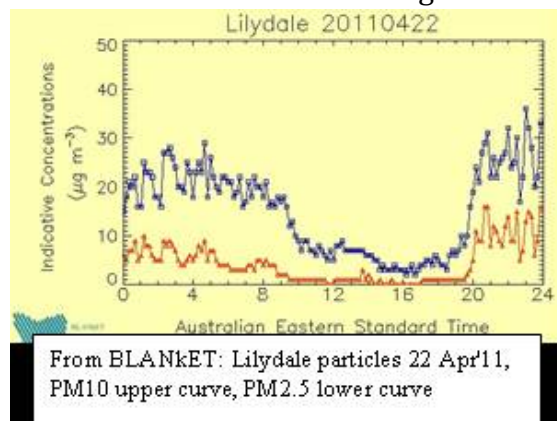
Wednesday 28th – Friday 30th September 2011  
Novotel Twin Waters Resort  
Sunshine Coast

## Launceston Woodsmoke Seminar: Further Improving Launceston's Air Quality

By John Todd

EIANZ (Tas), with sponsorship from the Clean Air Society of Australia and New Zealand, ran a very interesting seminar in Launceston on 31 March 2011. The theme "Further Improving Launceston's Air Quality" was addressed by three speakers covering the monitoring, management and health consequences of smoke from planned burns. We had an appreciative audience of 28, with many questions.

Dr John Innis from the EPA Division discussed the Tasmanian BLANKET air monitoring network. This impressive network of over 20 monitoring stations provides real-time particle concentration measurements which can be accessed through the EPA Division website. Fine particles (PM2.5) and coarse particles (PM10) are measured at each station along with various meteorological parameters. This allows regular monitoring of smoke as well as tracking of smoke plumes and identification of sources of smoke causing air quality problems in populated areas.



Graham Wilkinson, from the Forest Practices Authority, provided an overview of the State's Coordinated Smoke Management System (CSMS). Tasmania is divided into 11 airsheds and Bureau of Meteorology data is used to calculate the capacity of each



airshed to dissipate smoke each day. CSMS participants place bids to burn on a particular day, once the capacity of the airshed is full no further bids are taken. The CSMS is a voluntary program at present, but it might become required for all burns done through the forest practices plans. Unfortunately agricultural burns are not included. Trials of the CSMS began in 2008 and the System is constantly being refined to improve its effectiveness.

Dr James Markos, a respiratory physician and chairman of the Australian Lung Foundation (Tas) spoke of the health impacts of fine particles in wood smoke. Smoke is known to aggravate asthma, bronchitis and emphysema, cause breathing problems and increase the risk of lung cancer. Epidemiological studies in Australia and many other countries continue to show the harm that fine particles in the air can do to our health. The severe winter air quality problems in Launceston in the 1980s and '90s are now a thing of the past thanks to a large reduction in the number of homes using woodheaters and improvements in industrial emissions. However, smoke from bushfires and planned burns occasionally blankets Launceston at other times of the year.



Upcoming Event for Your Diary  
EIANZ/AWA Joint Seminar – Waterways and Wastewater Treatment  
Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> August  
The Boatshed, Invermay 5.30pm



## What's Happening In My Back Yard?

### WHIMBY Seminar

Wed 6<sup>th</sup> July – Resource Recovery

By Claire Brett

This seminar was held on a wintery Hobart evening with about 16 attendees. The seminar featured informative, inspiring and passionate presentations from Timothy Dunn at Foodbank Tasmania Inc and Robert Wise, Veolia. A big thank you to Veolia and GHD who sponsored the seminar.

Timothy provided an excellent overview of Foodbank Tasmania, which has been operating for about six months. Foodbank receives food that is still fit for human consumption but is past the best before date and also donated food. Foodbank is based in Cambridge in a warehouse donated by Jan Cameron. It has the ability to process large quantities of individual food donations (e.g. it recently received 21

pallets of goods) and passes the food on to organisations that provide food for those in need (eg Colony 47, The Salvation Army etc). Foodbank is also trialling a program providing breakfast at ten schools for children who would otherwise go without. Foodbank has negotiated arrangements with a number of freight companies to transport and pick up goods at no cost.

Foodbank relies heavily on volunteers to assist with all aspects of the operation. It is always looking out for more volunteers and Timothy is very happy to provide a tour of the facility.



Robert Wise demonstrated his passion for recycling and the environment during this presentation. Veolia employees 310 people in Tasmania and the company has three recycling sorting facilities in Tasmania (Derwent Park, Launceston and Spreyton). The plants operate between 8 and 16 hours per day. Paper, cardboard, aluminium, steel and glass are separated mechanically however plastic containers are manually sorted into plastic type. Veolia is has

extra capacity for sorting recyclables so it encourages Tasmanians to sort out more recyclable material. Recently Veolia worked with Hazell Brothers to develop a local market for crushed glass. A new carpark was constructed at the Rosny Park Tennis Club using recycled glass (equivalent to 300,000 stubbies!) in place of sand in the asphalt. Veolia is also investigating the collection and recycling of silage wrap and other stretch films.

Sue Allison-Rogers from Eenie Organics Recycling also provided a brief overview of their innovative project. Eenie has recently setup a food/organics kerbside collection program for Hobart residents and businesses. The material is being collected and composted by Soil First and the end product is available for purchase under the “Gardeners Friend” brand. The first 100 people to sign up will receive a significant discount. For more details, please go to

<http://www.organics.recycling.eenee.com>

The Tasmanian Electricity Supply Industry Expert Panel has released an issues paper and asks for comment before 12 August. For a copy of the report and associated information go to:

<http://www.electricity.tas.gov.au/home>



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## EIANZ and the AWA Joint Seminar

**When:** Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> August 2011 5:30pm – 7:30pm

**Where:** The Boathouse, 55A Lindsay St, Invermay

### **NRM North – Tamar Estuary and Esk Rivers Program**

Michael Attard, Scientific and Technical Officer, NRM North will provide an overview of NRM North's Tamar Estuary & Esk Rivers Program including information on the Ecosystem Health Assessment Program (EHAP), Lake Trevallyn Algal Bloom project and the Seafood Safety Working Group.

### **Green Shadows – A Perspective on Wastewater Treatment**

Michael Dickson, Director of Green Shadows Commercial Pty Ltd, will give a presentation on a novel approach to wastewater management including his thoughts on where the wastewater management industry is heading and a case study on an Acid Mine Drainage pilot project at MMG on the west coast.

A light supper will be provided.

**EIANZ/AWA Members: \$10**  
**Non members: \$20**  
**RSVP [tasbranch@awa.asn.au](mailto:tasbranch@awa.asn.au)**  
**by COB Friday 12<sup>th</sup> August 2011**  
**For more info, contact 0409 841 671**  
**Certified Env Practitioners: 1 point on PD log**

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## “What’s Happening In My Back Yard” Seminar Series

**When:** Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> August 5:30pm – 7:30pm

**Where:** GHD Meeting Room, 2 Salamanca Square Hobart  
(next to Smolt, Salmon shop/restaurant)



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### Coastal inundation risks within Clarence City Council

The recent storm surges and coastal erosion at Lauderdale and Port Arthur have highlighted the damage that can be caused from these types of events. Climate change is likely to increase the frequency and severity of such events. **Clarence City Council** has been working consistently to understand the risks posed to its coastal areas and to implement measures to minimise these impacts.

**Ian Preece**, Manager Environment and Sustainability, Clarence City Council and **Phil Watson**, Natural Resource Management Planner, will present on the following topics:

- Development of the *Climate Change Impacts on Clarence Coastal Areas Report*;
- Possible inundation scenarios for Clarence’s coastal areas and the extent of the impact;
- Strategies to minimise the impact of storm surges and erosion;
- Where Local Government’s legal responsibilities lie regarding coastal hazards; and
- How effectively the three tiers of Government are working together on this issue.

Nibbles and drinks will be provided. The EIANZ Annual General Meeting will be held at the end of the seminar.

**EIANZ Members: Free**  
**Non members: \$15**  
**Numbers are strictly limited to 30**  
**RSVP [carmel@crcms.com.au](mailto:carmel@crcms.com.au)**  
**by COB Friday 19<sup>th</sup> August 2011**  
**For more info, contact 0405 224 097**

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