



Environment
Institute of
Australia and
New Zealand

Tasmanian Divisional Newsletter

July 2010

We hope you enjoy this edition of the Tasmanian Divisional newsletter. We have had a great 2010 with three What's Happening In My Back Yard (WHIMBY) evening seminars (see details of each seminar in this newsletter). The next WHIMBY seminar will be combined with our Annual General Meeting so we need as many members as possible to come along. It is on Wednesday 18th August at 5:30pm at GHD in Salamanca. **Please let me know if you are interested in joining the Tasmanian Divisional Committee – we would welcome your input.**

Claire Brett, Newsletter Compiler

Student Awards

by Alex Langley

Each year the Tasmanian Chapter of EIANZ promotes an essay competition for third year Environmental Impact Assessment students at the University of Tasmania. Prizes on offer for the top three essays are one year of free student membership to EIANZ, plus the winner is awarded a \$200 book voucher.

This year's essay competition was based around a fictional adventure sports company who wants to run an extreme marathon event in Antarctica. Under the requirements of the *Antarctic Treaty (Environment Protection) Act 1980* any proposal for an activity in this region is required to undergo an assessment of environmental impact. Students were required to prepare, on behalf of the company, a Preliminary Impact Assessment in the required format. That of course also meant that the essayists had to plan and document just how such an event would be run. Thank goodness I will never run a marathon in Antarctica.

Congratulations to the winners who all showed a strong appreciation of the policy/regulatory framework, values and issues of the project, as well as the mitigation required for the event to proceed.

First prize – Madeline Prichard (pictured right)

Second prize – Zoltan Kelly

Third prize – Marcus Westberg



Upcoming Event for your Diary

WHIMBY Seminar and Annual General Meeting

Wed 18th August 5:30pm at GHD Salamanca

More details to come soon

Air Pollution in Tasmania: An Education Resource

by John Todd

The EPA Division recently launched a web based resource for teachers and students all about air quality in Tasmania. The website might be of interest to EIANZ members because it has links to relevant State and Commonwealth legislation and to more technical air quality websites. Have a look at:

http://www.environment.tas.gov.au/AQed_tas



Traffic in central Hobart, one of the many sources of air pollution in Tasmania

The website was put together for the EPA by John Todd and Nel Smit. It is intended to encourage teachers to include air quality issues and practical air related experiments in the classroom. The material is designed for the secondary school curriculum. It is a work in progress, with immediate plans for some more challenging exercises for advanced Year 11 and 12 students, and additional material on planned burning. If any EIANZ members have ideas for new material suited to secondary school teaching please contact Bob Hyde at the EPA Division (Bob.Hyde@environment.tas.gov.au) or John Todd (jjtodd@inet.net.au).

The Ambient Air Quality National Environment Protection Measure is currently under review. A discussion paper will be released shortly. Submissions are due by COB 27th August 2010. Please go to www.ephc.gov.au and click on Air and Ambient Air Quality NEPM.

Member Benefits Survey Results

by Claire Brett

Many thanks to those members who completed the recent Member Benefits survey. Well done to Astrid, Siobhan and Rhonda who won some chocolate for their efforts! The main purpose of the survey was to identify which EIANZ member benefits that you value the most. It is clear that local professional development events, seminars and the mentor program are the most highly valued benefits. We also had good feedback on this Divisional newsletter too. This information has been helpful in the Committee providing feedback on the proposed national Chief Executive Officer role. We are also trying to push for the Divisions to receive more funding from Central Operations to assist us in running local events for you.



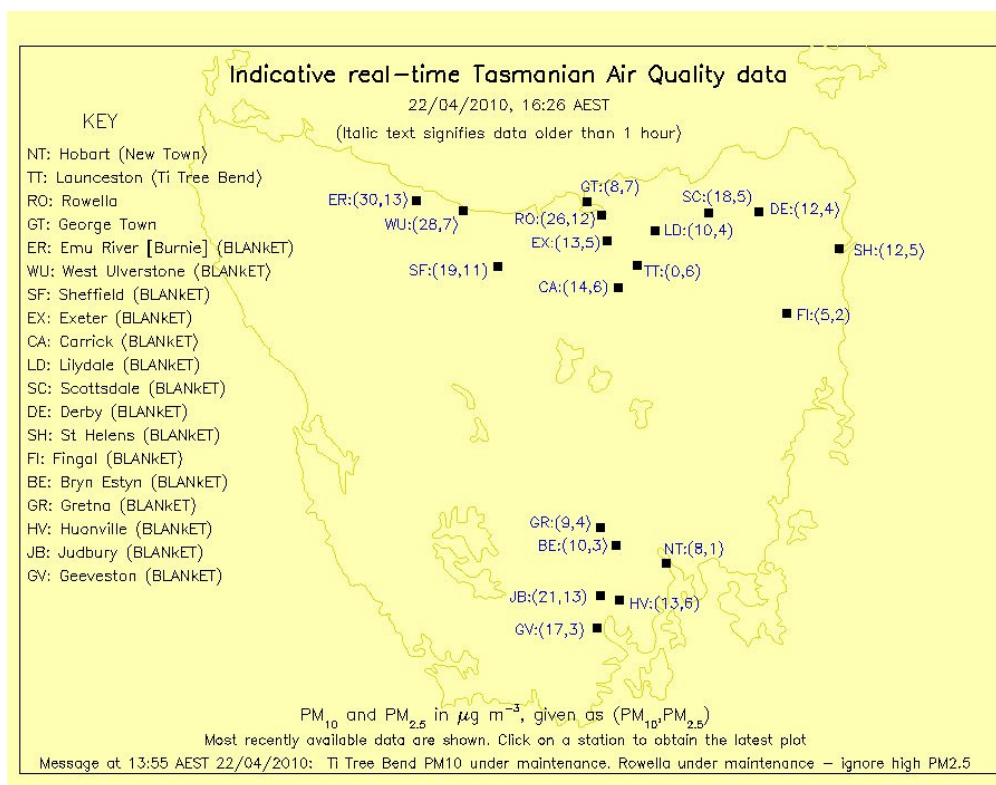
“What’s Happening In My Back Yard” Seminars

by Claire Brett

As you know, the Tasmanian Division hosted three WHIMBY seminars in 2010 showcasing exciting and innovative projects happening in Tasmania. The seminars are held on a Wednesday every two months from 5:30pm. The following is a snapshot from each seminar.

WHIMBY Feb 2010 – Air Quality Monitoring Theme

Dr Bob Hyde and John Innis, Environment Division, discussed the new network of air monitoring stations across the state primarily used to monitor smoke from planned burns. There are 15 BLANKET (Base Line Air Network of EPA Tasmania) stations currently in operation. The data from the monitoring stations is available real time via www.environment.tas.gov.au The data will be used to assess population exposure to smoke and will provide valuable feedback to those who undertake planned burns on the movement of smoke plumes. The diagram below shows real-time air quality data (PM10 and PM2.5) from all the monitoring stations in Tasmania.



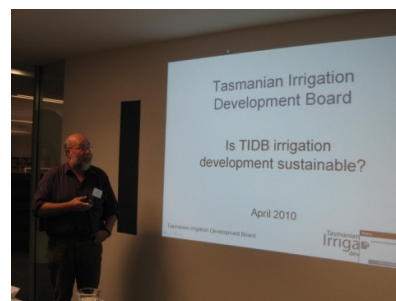
The Division has conducted a preliminary review of the estimated particle emission from forest burns as reported in the National Pollutant Inventory (NPI) and which were then incorporated into the Tasmanian Air Quality Strategy. It has found that the NPI data significantly underestimates the contribution of particle pollution from forest burns. For more information on the revision, go to www.environment.tas.gov.au and click on “Air, Water, Noise” then “Air Quality” and then “Tasmanian Air Quality Strategy” and scroll down to *Revised Contribution of PM10 Emissions from Forest Industry Burns and Domestic Wood Heating*.

WHIMBY April 2010 – Water Theme

Chris Thompson, Tasmanian Irrigation Development Board

The Tasmanian Irrigation Development Board (TIDB) is a registered company that began in September 2008. It evolved from the Tasmanian Water Development Plan and the SMART farming initiative.

The role of the Board is to investigate potential irrigation schemes that are not viable through private sector funding. There is a comprehensive assessment process for each potential irrigation scheme that includes an economic analysis, environmental review (including water access plans) and a social sustainability element (including cultural and Aboriginal heritage issues). If successful, the TIDB funds and oversees construction of the irrigation scheme. Once the scheme is running successfully, the goal is to hand over ownership to the local farming community. For more information, please see www.tidb.com.au



Southern Water

Russell Fox and Tim Phillips provided an entertaining insight into the priorities and operation of Southern Water, the newly formed council owned water and wastewater corporation. It has 320 employees and provides water and sewerage to a population of 200,000 within 12 southern council areas. The stormwater system remains the responsibility of Councils.



There are a number of capital works in the pipeline (!) including the Southern Region Water Meter Project, Lauderdale Sewerage System, Swansea Water Supply Development and the South East Tasmania Water Recycling Scheme.

Southern Water's priority is to create a new culture, with a strong focus on safety and community service. Engaging with the community and working through issues are also a priority.

For more information, please see www.southernwatertas.com.au

WHIMBY June 2010 – Renewable Energy

Cattle Hill wind farm

Shane Bartel, Bartel Consulting, gave a presentation on the proposed wind farm at Cattle Hill, next to Lake Echo, north west of Bothwell. NP Power Pty Ltd is the proponent, a privately owned company based in California. They have commissioned a number of wind farms in Australia. The site is around 4 kilometres from the Waddamana power station, where the electricity produced



will be fed into the grid. The geographical size of the wind farm is 8 kilometres by 4 kilometres and the land is privately owned. The proposal is for up to 100 turbines, each with an output of up to 3MW. The estimated capital expenditure is \$500M.

A key environmental issue is the potential impact on wedge-tailed eagles. There is one active nest on the site and two inactive sites. The company has undertaken a two year survey into the activity of the eagles at the site so that wind turbines can be sited away from high collision risk areas.

The Development Proposal and Environmental Management Plan (DPEMP) has been submitted to the Central Highlands Council. The EPA will assess the environmental issues of the project. The project has been referred to the Australian Government for consideration under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* as it is likely to have a significant impact on Listed Threatened Species and Communities and Listed migratory species. The DPEMP is available at www.nppower.ent/index.html. Comments can be made to the General Manager Central Highlands Council PO Box 20 Hamilton TAS 7140 and are due by 5pm on **7 August 2010**.

Centre for Renewable Energy and Power Systems, UTAS



Professor Jane Sargison provided an overview of the activities at the Centre for Renewable Energy and Power Systems based at the University of Tasmania. The Centre offers higher education qualifications and Professional Development courses and undertakes research activities and consultancies. The Centre has been undertaking research in the area of biofouling of open channels and pipelines used in the production of hydro power. A few millimetres of film causes friction which can lead to a 10% loss in capacity. The Centre has been analysing methods to clean and reduce the occurrence of biofilms. The Centre is also seeking to experimentally validate the subfloor model within Accurate, an energy prediction software used by building designers. The Centre is working with Local Government on climate change mitigation initiatives. It has done some emission inventory work as well as working on project to offset and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Dr Ameen Gargoom, Research Fellow, gave an in-depth presentation on his research into control systems for wind and diesel standalone power systems. These systems are suited to remote areas. The system preferentially uses wind power to generate electricity. When there is excess wind power, the excess electricity is used to generate hydrogen which can be subsequently mixed with diesel and combusted to generate electricity during times of low wind. The control systems are complex, and it is essential to generate a constant voltage regardless of whether the power source is from wind, hydrogen/diesel or diesel only.



For more information, please go to www.creps.utas.edu.au