

NZ Chapter NEWSLETTER

An Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand Publication



Season's Greetings!

We hope you all manage to take a break over the holiday period and come back in 2006 refreshed and looking forward to continue working towards a sustainable future...

If you are looking for some sustainable Christmas present ideas have a look at Oxfam unwrapped (www.oxfam.org.nz) or sponsor someone a Hector's dolphin (www.wwf.org.nz/HectorsChallenge/HD-TheChallenge.cfm).

From the EIANZ NZ Chapter Exec and the newsletter team have a great holiday season and happy new year! We look forward to catching up in 2006.

Introducing the rest of the 2005-2006 NZ Chapter Executive

Professor Ian Spellerberg (Vice President New Zealand Chapter, CEnvP Board Member)

For as long as I can remember, I have been passionate about nature conservation, environmental sustainability and interdisciplinary environmental education. I was Director of Environmental Sciences at Southampton University, England. I was involved in the early stages of the establishment of the Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (IEEM). Before I left England, I established the Chilworth Nature Reserve with support from the David Shepherd Foundation and BP.

In 1994 I became Director of the Centre for Resource Management at Lincoln University and then Director of the Environmental Management and Design Division. Meanwhile I established the Isaac Centre for Nature Conservation of which I am Director. The Centre is an advocate for nature conservation and coordinates nature conservation teaching and research. Several research programmes have now been established in addition to extension activities and two international masters programmes in

sustainability and nature conservation. Recently I stepped down as Divisional Director to put more time into research and the Isaac Centre.

Over the last ten years I have argued for some kind of professional environmental institute in New Zealand. The EIANZ and the CEnvP are major milestones for New Zealand. There will be many benefits for the profession, practitioners and of course the environment!

I am President of the New Zealand Plant Conservation Network and a member of the New Zealand Coordinating Committee for the UN Decade of Education for Sustainability. I am a member of two IUCN Commissions and I also contribute to one of the DIVERSITAS projects. Recently I helped to establish an Environmental Task Force for Lincoln. I have also helped to establish the Te Ara Kakariki Greenway Canterbury Concept. Both very exciting!

My wife Myfanwy and I have a weakness for art galleries and antique shops and we spend a lot of time in our country garden. We have two children. We also have two dogs and I am mad enough to compete in dog training events.

David Clendon (Committee Member)

I am pleased to be re-elected to the committee, having been involved with the EIANZ since it was a gleam in the eye of a number of academics and practitioners who recognised that existing organisations were not providing for many of us who take an integrated, holistic approach to environmental management.

After a degree in political studies and education from Auckland, I went to Lincoln and completed an MSc in Resource Management, with a particular interest in coastal management. After several years of teaching in the politics department at Auckland, I came to my present role of lecturer and programme director for the degree in resource management at Unitec Institute of Technology.

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My research interests include looking at the extent to which the existing funding and delivery mechanisms for public good science serve the needs of resource management regulators and practitioners (primary finding, they don't!); and issues around maintaining a balance between efficiency and public participation in local government.

My personal politics are decidedly Green – I have filled a number of elected roles within the Green party, including two terms as national co-convenor, and stood as a candidate in Waitakere in the recent election.

I am enjoying being a member of the NZ Chapter executive, which collectively is able to call on a significant breadth and depth of skills, experience and networks in pursuit of the Institute's objectives. I look forward to being involved in building the public and professional profile, membership and efficacy of the Institute.

Sustainable building news

By Mike O'Connell (Environment Canterbury)

There have been a couple of recent and informative Christchurch presentations on aspects of the building and construction industry.

Firstly, Martin Hunt and Peter Price-Thomas of The Natural Step (UK) were brought to New Zealand by the University of Canterbury to work with them on the development of new BioSciences buildings. Martin and Peter talked about "Sustainable Construction: Myth or Mainstream".

The presenters stated the construction industry in the UK is a big producer of waste – 17% of C&D waste slips through to landfills as *unused* materials! Obstacles to progress in sustainable construction can be best summarised by the 'cycle of blame', the excuse for inaction caused largely by lack of information or spread of misinformation between constructors, developers, investors and occupiers.

It was encouraging for once that the bulk of the audience (including many architects) was not the normal 'converts'. Many came along prepared to listen and I think would have emerged with some sound food for thought from the ideas put across in what was overall an excellent presentation.

Good use of graphics was made by the presenters to emphasise this and other key points. The Natural Step 'funnel' concept is a particularly powerful metaphor. There is a way through from the converging funnel (where we are now) to the diverging funnel of a sustainable future but it's going to take considerable effort, commitment, cooperation, conservation and sharing to get through it. Building and constructing sustainably will play a strong part in getting us there.

Later in the same week, Stephen Ingrouille of Going Solar in Victoria spoke about the application of specific (solar) renewable energy systems to building projects, for example, in schools. The main point Stephen made, and one we are becoming increasingly familiar with, is that environmentally sustainable design (ESD) doesn't work as a tack-on during or at the end of a building project – ESD experts are engaged right at the start to plan for solar heating systems, rainwater collection, etc. While ESD is becoming more commonplace in Australia (though by no means yet mainstream), there is still tendency for 'short-term' thinking to prevail. That is, when a tender is over-budget (as they often are), the first aspects discarded are the ones that ironically offer the greatest financial savings to the buyer/occupier!

Aesthetics are also important – for example photovoltaic panels can act as shading in shopping mall atriums during daylight hours providing sufficient electricity to dampen peak summer demand. In the school projects Stephen mentioned, there was a strong educational component with the project in that as the solar technology is fitted, the children get involved and learn to place a value on using energy, and water, wisely.

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Of interest to readers, an interim NZ Green Building Council (GBC) has been established. It is hoped that one day soon this Council will be able to wield influence like its Australian counterpart. One of the challenges the GBC will face is defining the term 'green building'. Also important is ensuring that the opportunities that a collective contribution to making a difference aren't limited. The temptation has been to focus on buildings themselves when in fact the real focus should be on making a difference to the environment that people live, work and play in and improving business economics.

On a lighter note, the new series of Bob the Builder being shown on TV ONE from December 1 will be dedicated to . . . sustainable construction! It will feature the building of a green town constructed from local materials and sensitively designed to blend into its bucolic surroundings. Roll on the decade for education for sustainability!

Helping companies to deal with hazardous substances

By Shaun Lewis

Improper handling and storage of hazardous substances can be disastrous for both people and the environment. In the 6 months to February 2005 there were 159 new chemical related workplace injuries costing almost \$1m, bringing the total number of chemical related claims for the period to 444 at a cost of \$8,222,666. Then there are the costs to the company, local government and the wider community, of chemicals released into the environment, which are extremely difficult to put a dollar figure on.

The Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996 (HSNO) is intended to: "protect the environment, and the health and safety of people and communities, by preventing or managing the adverse effects of hazardous substances". HSNO replaces: the Explosives Act 1957; the Dangerous Goods Act 1974; the Toxic Substances Act 1979; the Pesticides Act 1979 (with minor exceptions); and parts of the Animal and Plants Acts (1967 and 1970) that covered the intentional introduction of new species into

New Zealand.

HSNO is relevant to cleaner production advisers, as compliance is the first step on the road to sustainability. If companies aren't interested in becoming compliant, then there is little value in advocating the merits of waste minimisation and design for environment. The results are likely to be disappointing! So how does a cleaner production adviser with no experience of HSNO or understanding of what the requirements are, advise business on how to manage their hazardous substances? One option is to refer them to OSH or the local council for a "voluntary" assessment! Another option is to point them in the direction of the latest compliance tool for Hazardous Substances – ChemSafe®.

ChemSafe® is a software tool that is simple to use. Users enter information on site, building and storage areas, and then search the comprehensive database to correctly identify substances from the ERMA Approved or Transferred substances list. The software produces full reports for each substance as well as detailing requirements where two or more substances are held in the same area.

Using the software tool to manage hazardous substances removes the need for companies to develop an in depth understanding of the HSNO legislation. At the same time the software makes it easy to comply with the legislation, reducing the likelihood of health, safety and environmental accidents and incidences related to improper storage and handling of hazardous substances.

ChemSafe® is available for an annual license fee of \$995, which includes updates from all NZ Gazettes and information on substances as they are approved or transferred into HSNO. It is supported by an email and telephone helpdesk. For more information on ChemSafe® ring the helpdesk on (04) 499 4319 or email chemsafe@nzcc.org.nz

This article was first published in BusinessCare (April 2005), the news sheet produced by WasteMINZ, and is reproduced with their kind permission.

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CEnvP Certification

Congratulations to New Zealand's first CEnvPs. The first round of assessments under the new Certified Environmental Practitioner program (CEnvP) here in New Zealand has been completed. Six out of seven of the applicants were successful. They are: Shaun Lewis* (Wellington); Pene Burns*, Rochelle Hardy*; Rebecca Roper-Gee*, Ian Spellerberg* (Christchurch) and Bill Chisholm (Dunedin). Their names and fields of specialization appear in the CEnvP register at www.cenvp.org.

* members of EIANZ

Employment

Landcare Research seeks expressions of interest from consultants

In June 2005 Landcare Research sought expressions of interest from consultants to undertake environmental management system and resource efficiency work. The response was positive but we still wish to engage locally-based consultants in the following regions: Manawatu, Southland and Wellington. If you are interested in being sent further information on the skills and experience sought then email Kalle Howlett at howlettk@landcareresearch.co.nz.

New Kiwi resident seeks work

Charlie Bartlett, an experienced senior EMS consultant working in Sheffield, England is moving to NZ in 2006 to live and work. Charlie is looking to start work in about September 2006 but can be flexible on this. He is looking for a position that provides him with as much EMS and related work as possible.

Please email charliebartlett@postmaster.co.uk for more information or for a copy of his CV.

Professional Development

Master of International Studies (Environment)

The Masters programme at IPC has been running since 2000. It offers a practical

postgraduate qualification on the environment, with an emphasis on four key principles: people, politics, business and science. The first year studies are capped by a paper in environmental management, with training in environmental planning and resource management law. International and domestic case studies are used: the current student mix is about half kiwi, half international students, including two PhD holders working in New Zealand CRIs who are upgrading their practical skills. We collaborate with a variety of other service providers, and are always interested in new contacts and networking.

Contact Rick Fisher for more information or for a list of 2005 Publications.

email: RFisher@ipc.ac.nz

South Island News and Events

Ethics seminar report

On the 18 November in Christchurch around 40 participants hailing from South Canterbury to the Waikato attended a very successful EIANZ workshop on Professional Ethics. Organiser Leo Fietje set the scene with the sobering news that environmental impact assessments are less reliable than weather forecasts! Other experienced speakers followed: Ced Croft advised the group to listen to their hearts, heads and others' views when making ethical decisions and former Environment Court Judge Peter Skelton explained that objectivity, integrity, credibility and independence are essential qualities of a good expert witness. Ian Spellerberg emphasised the need for good science and careful use of scientific terminology and Rob Savory noted the importance of being seen to be ethical. Further professional development events are planned for 2006.

First event for 2006

The Christchurch EIANZ Branch is planning a get together for the 8th February 2006. The venue will be announced nearer the time. All members are welcome.

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Events	Newsletter News
<p style="text-align: center;">EIANZ Conference 2006</p> <p>The 2006 EIANZ Conference will be held in Adelaide from 17 to 20 September with pre- and post-Conference tours. The title of the conference is Environmental Practice and it will be based around the following themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental education • Environmental planning • Environmental assessment • Environmental approvals • Environmental auditing • Environmental research • Environmental reporting • Business development for the environmental contractor/consultants. <p>Members are invited to submit papers and abstracts are now being accepted. Please refer to the EIANZ website (www.eianz.org) for submission details and format requirements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Important dates are as follows (all 2006): • Close of abstracts – 1 March • Notification of abstract acceptance – 1 April • Close of submission date for full papers – 1 June • Close of earlybird registration – 30 June • Notification of full paper acceptance and/or amendments – 1 July • Close of submission date for final full papers – 1 August <p>For further information contact: Plevin and Associates Pty Ltd PO Box 54 BURNSIDE, SA 5066 Australia Tel: +61 (0)8 8379 8222 Fax: +61 (0)8 8379 8177 Email: events@plevin.com.au</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Newsletter News</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Submission dates for 2006</p> <p>Next year's EIANZ NZ Chapter newsletter submissions dates are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monday 27 February, 5pm • Monday 29 May, 5pm • Monday 24 July, 5pm • Monday 2 October, 5pm • Monday 27 November, 5pm <p>All submissions to sarah.pritchett@vuw.ac.nz I will also send out reminders two weeks or so before the deadline.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Backup editor needed!</p> <p>I will be on maternity leave for the first part of next year. The newsletter dates above are designed to fit around this but does someone want to volunteer to be a backup editor in case I find I can't juggle being a first time mum and newsletter editor in time for the May issue? Please email sarah.pritchett@vuw.ac.nz if interested. It's not a very difficult task and each issue only takes up a few hours.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Regular columnists requested</p> <p>One idea the Exec has had for the newsletter is to have regular columns in the newsletter from different perspectives. For example, something from local or central government, something from a consultant and so on. If you would be interested in contributing a regular column please contact sarah.pritchett@vuw.ac.nz. The column could be an "in brief" format with just a paragraph or two informing readers of new developments in your area.</p>

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Other odds and ends

EIANZ website

I'm responsible for updating the NZ Chapter section of the EIANZ website (www.eianz.org) so if you have any suggestions for items that need to be included, or any photos from events etc that I could include please email me: sarah.pritchett@vuw.ac.nz

CBSM listserv

Doug McKenzie-Mohr's Community Based Social Marketing website (www.cbsm.com) now has a listserve where you can post questions or information about CBSM. To subscribe to this email list send an email with "subscribe" in the subject line to fsb-on@cbsmlist.com.

Greening the screen

The Ministry for the Environment has just released "Greening the screen" – an environmental toolkit for the screen production industry. It includes tips on minimising impact on the environment in: the office; behind the screen (ie, wardrobe, make-up); on location; on screen; off screen; and management. The website includes case studies and templates. Check it out on www.greeningthescreen.co.nz and pass it on if you know of anyone in the film industry!

*Merry Christmas and
a very happy new
year.....*

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