

NZ Chapter NEWSLETTER

An Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand Publication

Working on the Frontier: Environmental Sustainability in Practice Conference

'Till now man has been up against Nature; from now on he will be up against his own nature.' Given that in no small way this continues to be our task, I hope we are successful.

With this timely reminder from Nobel Prize winner Dennis Gabor, the Governor-General officially launched the first EIANZ conference to be held in Aotearoa New Zealand. The conference was held in Christchurch from 30th March to 1st April.



Dame Silvia Cartwright, Professor Peter Skelton, Ljubica Mamula-Stojnic and Simon Molesworth at the opening ceremony

The Conference Committee would like to thank all the sponsors: Meridian Energy (principal sponsor), MFE, Solid Energy, Environment Canterbury, MWH, Fulton Hogan Ltd, and Manaaki Whenua / Landcare Research. The committee would also like to thank the 230 plus attendees from both sides of the Tasman for their contributions, which helped make the conference a big success. Adelaide in 2006 should be marked in everyone's diaries for the next EIANZ conference!



The 2005 Conference Team: L-R, Pene Burns, Martin Ward, Leo Fietje, Judith Roper-Lindsay, Sally Dickson, Peter Skelton, Linda Kirk and Ced Croft (absent are Ian Spellerberg and Marg Craig).

Snapshots from EIANZ Conference Christchurch, 2005



Professor Ian Lowe from Griffith University delivers his thought-provoking keynote talk on day one



MWH Mystery Fun Evening at Addington Raceway



Barry Carbon, Simon Molesworth and Morgan Williams at the closing session's panel discussion



Waimakariri River Technical Tour

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Conference Report

The Conference Theme was "Working on the Frontier – Environmental Sustainability in Practice" and was held over two and a half days, preceded by a Welcome Ceremony the evening before during which the popular Mayor of Christchurch Garry Moore welcomed delegates to the "Garden City". The Conference was formally opened by Her Excellency the Governor-General of New Zealand, The Honourable Dame Silvia Cartwright This was preceded by a traditional Maori welcome from Johnno Crofts, a leader of the local hapu (sub-tribe) within whose rohé (area) the Conference was held.

Delegates benefited from addresses by six challenging keynote speakers from both sides of the Tasman and one all the way from Canada. Each made a valuable contribution to the vexed question of how we as environmental practitioners can give effect to the noble but ever-challenging ideal of managing our environment in a sustainable way. The first day of the conference coincided with the release of the Millennium Report, giving an added urgency and global perspective to the issues we face in the Pacific region.

Delegates had the difficult task of selecting ten papers to attend from fifty on offer, presented over ten concurrent sessions. The Conference Committee had an equally difficult task, having more papers on offer than there was room for at the conference, ensuring that the quality of those presented were of a particularly high. Full copies of papers presented will be distributed on CD-ROMs to delegates shortly. Those who could not make the conference or would otherwise like copies of papers can purchase these from Central Office.

On the afternoon of the second day delegates had the choice of several technical tours, ranging from a visit to Canterbury's unique braided rivers (nothing like the Murray!), an organic farm, volcanically derived hills on the edge of Christchurch, a heritage tour and visit to the meeting house of a local Maori sub-tribe where several members of the Institute were made Honorary Chiefs!

The Conference ended with a stirring address by our President Simon Molesworth, who as always enthused delegates to ever-higher standards of professional practice if we are to have any hope of achieving the reality of Environmental Sustainability.

Leo Fietje
Conference Chair

Certified Environmental Practitioner

The CEnvP Board has been processing applications from EIANZ members in Australia and there are now quite a few members who have obtained the CEnvP.

The New Zealand CEnvP Assessment Panel has been established and endorsed by the Board. The names of the people on the Panel will be reported to the next Chapter Executive Meeting. I fully expect that the New Zealand Assessment Panel will be dealing with applications later this year.

I know that some EIANZ members in New Zealand are preparing their applications. I do urge all EIANZ members to give serious thought to applying for certification. All applications must be sent to the CEnvP central office in Melbourne.

The CEnvP web site will soon be completed. Meanwhile information about CEnvP can be obtained from myself, the EIANZ web site or via infor@cenvp.org

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Member News

If you have news to share with your fellow EIANZ members, email to: sarah.pritchett@vuw.ac.nz