



NZ Chapter NEWSLETTER

An Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand Publication

In This Issue...

This issue of the NZ Chapter Newsletter is devoted to the AGM...

President's Report for 2005-06

NZ Chapter

The NZ Chapter established an administration office through the Christchurch Environment Centre (CEC) in late March 2003. While the CEC relocated its office in early 2006 and is temporarily without direct fax /phone facilities, the NZ Chapter is able to retain its email and postal contact for NZ members. In September 2005 Brian Walsh (of the Sustainable Business Network) undertook to manage membership applications, the membership database and co-ordination with Central Office administration.

Meetings

Since the last AGM in August 2005 there have been four Council meetings and several Executive Committee meetings. The Institute as a whole is administered by a Council that includes a New Zealand Vice-President and one Councillor. The Executive Committee comprises the Officers of the Institute and at present two other members of the Institute appointed by the Council. It is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Institute as a whole in accordance with delegated authority from the Council. These meetings are usually conducted by teleconference.

NZ Chapter Executive Committee

The day-to-day affairs of the NZ Chapter are administered by an Executive Committee comprising the Officers of the Chapter plus 3 elected New Zealand members of the Institute plus the New Zealand Vice-President and the New Zealand Councillor (ex officio). A total of seven NZ Chapter Executive Committee meetings have been held since the AGM of August 2005. Executive Committee meetings in 2005/06 have been held on the following dates: 7 September, 2 November, 7 December 2004; 10 February, 22 March, and 26 April 2006. Six of these have been teleconferences with the February meeting being held in Christchurch.

Branch Building Activities

The establishment of Chapter branches has progressed in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch with seminar programs and workshops. An event is planned for Dunedin to profile the Institute.

Consultations with members have identified areas of strategic priority for the Chapter as being members' services and professional development, increase in membership and promotion of professional standards. A need to distinguish the Institute from other professional bodies, while co-operating with them, was also identified. In response, the Chapter has undertaken activities including:

- Political debate on sustainability in Christchurch, August 2005 – where political party representatives gathered to debate sustainability issues in the lead up to the 2005 General Election (in conjunction with four local NGOs)
- Professional Ethics workshop in Christchurch, November 2005 - where around 40 participants attended a very successful EIANZ workshop on professional ethics (similar events are planned for Auckland and Wellington later in 2006).

Other professional development fora, seminars and workshops:

- Christchurch - presentation by Bruce Taylor, PCE's Office "Environmental Science: In debate and in the dock" (April 06)
- Wellington - presentations by: Richard Little, Meridian Energy "Wind Energy and Project West Wind" (Sept 05); Marta Karlik-Neale, URS "Triple Bottom Line (TBL) Reporting: GRI update in the New Zealand context" (March 06)
- Auckland - Auckland branch meeting, "Shaping the Auckland branch" (July 06)



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Professional certification (CEnvP)

The Certification scheme became effective in both Australia and in New Zealand in 2005, with the New Zealand Panel established the same year. The first practitioners have already been certified and the first applicants from the New Zealand received their certificates at a ceremony in Christchurch in March 2006. The Minister for the Environment, The Hon David Benson-Pope gave a short address and presented the certificates to the first seven successful applicants. The May intake has closed and the next intake will take place in November 2006. There are three applications from New Zealand.

An arrangement relating Professional Indemnity insurance has now been concluded between the Institute and Marsh Pty Ltd, one of the world's leading insurance and risks specialist. Details are available on the Institute's website in the latest news section. This service is available to practitioners in New Zealand.

NZ Chapter Newsletter

Since August 2005, four issues of the NZ Chapter Newsletter have been circulated to members. Sarah Pritchett from Victoria University has continued to produce excellent newsletters for us during the year.

Membership

In the last year, there has been a healthy growth in the number of members in the central North Island and Nelson-Marlborough regions. The NZ Chapter of the EIANZ has 132 financial members as of 30 June 2006. Approximately 40% (57 members) come from Canterbury with 20% each from Wellington (24) and Auckland (26). There are 14 and 5 members in smaller N Island / S Island centres respectively; two members are also based in Fiji. The Gisborne, Hawkes Bay and Southland regions do not yet have any members.

Treasurer's Report

Leo reported that an audit (a 3-page summary was made available to those present) had been carried out by Arie Geerlofs, an IRD auditor from Christchurch. Main points included:

- Conference 2005 surplus of (approx) \$23,000 has been evenly split between a transfer to Central Office and NZ Chapter account. The former has been earmarked for the merit awards scheme.

- Accounts prepared (as for 2004/05) on an accrual basis.
- The EIANZ Council has approved the NZ Chapter retaining 35% of its membership income for administrative purposes in New Zealand.
- Membership income lower than expected due to late invoicing and bank bureaucracy.

Election of Executive Committee

President - Judith was available for re-election. As there were no other nominations, all present were in agreement that Judith remain President for the 2006/07 year.

Vice-President - Ian Spellerberg announced he was available for re-election. As there were no other nominations, Ian was re-elected unopposed.

Treasurer - Leo Fietje announced he was available for re-election. As there were no other nominations, Leo was re-elected unopposed.

Secretary - Mike O'Connell had stood two terms as Secretary and was standing down. Rex Verity (CPIT, Christchurch) had announced he was available for election. As there were no other nominations, Rex was elected unopposed (a CV for Rex in support was not required to be read).

Committee - David and Gabi announced they were available for re-election. Jenny had previously announced she was unavailable for re-election. Leo announced that Diane Shelander (Senior Resource Planner, Christchurch City Council) had put her name forward. No other nominations were received and Diane was elected as the third Committee member together with David and Gabi who were re-elected unopposed.

NZ Councillor (ex-officio member of Committee) - Leo Fietje was available for re-election. As there were no other nominations, Leo was re-elected unopposed.

Mike was thanked on the Members' behalf for his efforts in the Secretary's role; as was Jenny for her role on the Committee.



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Summary of Presentations at the AGM

Supplied by Sarah Campbell, of URS, Rob Savoury
and Mike O'Connell

Developing Standards for Environmental Practitioners – by Bill Haylock EIANZ President

Currently there are no standards on who is qualified to deliver good science. As Environmental Practitioners we need to manage the delivery of scientific needs – we have a role in advocacy.

Recently consent for a Victorian wind farm was turned down by the Environment Minister, Ian Campbell, due to the fact that it was located in the flight path of the orange bellied parrot, who flew there perhaps a few times a year. This decision was made despite advice provided to the Minister on the contrary.

This indicates the importance of peer reviews, assessment and certification. Professional development needs to start at the beginning of a career (0-2 yrs) and then again at 3-5 yrs, and so on. Currently the Australian Government supports the practice of certification programmes, which EIANZ are proposing to run.

Goals cannot be achieved (via planning mechanisms etc) without a solid and robust foundation of good quality scientific practice. For example, where is the vetting in sustainability reports? Are they carried out by a certified person with a high level of scientific rigour?

Certification needs to be tailored according to scientific specialities. There is currently no accountability, for example, any person may carry out an EIA, which undermines its credibility. To be credible it needs to be peer-reviewed by a certified assessor. Only in pursuing certification will we achieve excellence.

Environmental Awareness Training – Rob Savoury, QNZ Environmental Auditors

Rob Savoury has spent the past 18 months facilitating environmental awareness training courses for Solid Energy's coal miners.

These courses targeted supervisors and leading hands and have been delivered at all operational sites from Huntly in the north to Ohai in the south.

Rob has recently been joined by Gabi Torkington from EnviroWaste Services in a project designed to improve environmental awareness at the supervisor-leading hand level, right across the spectrum of polluting industries in New Zealand. At a workshop to be held in Auckland on 1st December corporate and government Environmental Trainers will discuss the delivery of training courses to the workforce, ie. what subjects do we include and how best do we deliver the material.

DOC Acting General Manager Al Morrison

DoC is responsible for the management of one third of NZ's landmass yet in terms of climate change policy DoC has not been involved in the processes to date. Given the role of the landmass DoC controls and the potential for forest sinks etc DoC should be closely involved.

As the latest power crises illustrates "everyone loves the environment...until the lights go out"! Whenever we have a power crisis the knee jerk reactions from the populace is "we need more dams".

The three major drivers impacting on DoC and its functions are:

- There are many more players now involved in conservation such as iwi and corporate organisations, which has been leaving DoC increasingly marginalised.
- Over the last 20 years or so there has been a philosophical mindset change away from environmental 'protest' to one of environmental 'engagement' (asking, is 'preserving the environment' still the only way forward?).
- There is largely no longer an anti-conservation movement.

Values

New Zealand as a nation has progressed through conservation values. For example, firstly, we valued trees 'intrinsically' (unspoilt); then for recreation; then for tourism; and more recently to maintain the future (ie carbon credits). In the future there may be a post-Kyoto 'brand' value attached.



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DOC needs more funding and the only way to achieve this is to encourage economic values assigned to ecosystem values.

The Environmental Sector needs strong leadership. Recently there has been a major cultural shift for DOC - in moving away from being 'conservationists' or 'greenies' to acting more like public servants within a sustainability paradigm.

EIANZ Corporate Plan

Vision

Sustaining the environment through excellence in environmental practice.

Mission

We will lead all environmental practitioners in the support of their profession, set standards for best available environmental practices and enable practitioners to promote and achieve a sustainable Australia and New Zealand.

Key Messages

1. The institute is the peak professional body in Australia and New Zealand for environmental practitioners, and promotes independent and interdisciplinary discourse on environmental issues.

2. Our transition to a sustainable society depends on good environmental outcomes through continuous capacity building in environmental practices.

3. On all issues and all projects the Institute advocates best available environmental practices to be delivered by competent and ethical environmental practitioners.

4. Peer assessment and certification are critical tools in demonstrating excellence in environmental practice.

EIANZ Conference

Don't forget to register for the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand Conference - Environmental Practice. Hilton Adelaide, 17-20 September 2006. Register before the 1st September whilst the standard registration fee applies.

The conference will be opened by the **Hon Gail Gago** MLC Minister for Environment and Conservation, SA.

Speakers include The **Hon Greg Hunt**, Parliamentary Secretary- Environment and Heritage, John Scanlon, Independent Commissioner on the Murray Darling Basin Commission; Bill Bayfield, Chief Executive Environment Bay of Plenty in New Zealand; Jeff Tryens Executive Director of the Oregon Progress Board, Oregon, USA (and now Executive Director SA Strategic Planning - Community Connection, advising the SA Premier on state strategic planning and community consultation); **Dr John Zillman**, President of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering (ATSE) and of the Australian National Academies Forum (NAF) and Yvonne Sneddon, the Presiding Member of the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management Board.

The conference program includes a number of sessions targeted to help set standards and best practice for environmental professionals as well as identifying their professional needs, including workshops on:

- EP & BC Act - Referrals & Assessments
- Impact Assessment (SIS)
- Certification of Environmental Practitioners
- Professional Development
- Being a Successful Consultant
- Policy and Practice, External Relations
- AJEM

There are also over 50 papers on a range of topics of interest in the areas of Business Development;

- Energy;
- Environmental Approvals;
- Environmental Education;
- Environmental Impact Assessment;
- Environmental Management;
- Environmental Planning;
- Environmental Research;
- Measuring Sustainability;
- Natural Resources Management;
- Strategic Environmental Assessment.

More information is available on www.eianz.org. Click here for a registration form.

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First Exec meeting for 2006/07 Committee

The Chapter's Executive Committee met for the first time since the AGM on August 15th. First, we welcomed two new members - Rex Verity who is our new Secretary, and Diane Shelander, a new committee member. Rex and Diane are both based in Christchurch, and we are very aware of the difficulties that will be posed in terms of having balanced representation from throughout the country. Gabi and David are putting a lot of energy into organising activities for Aucklanders, and Wellington has an active branch, but we would still welcome any inputs and comments from those of you outside the main centres. Meanwhile Rex and Diane will post some biographical notes in the next Newsletter. We also recorded our thanks to Mike for his efficient and friendly service as Secretary, and Jenny for her input from one of the "smaller" centres in Blenheim.

Much of the business of the meeting was routine updates. Ian noted that the next round of CEnvP New Zealand applicant interviews will be held soon, but that more NZ applications would raise the profile of the programme locally.

Over the course of the next few meetings we will be discussing options for the location of the next AGM (2007). We would like to hold a one day workshop or seminar series in association with the AGM so if anyone has suggestions for topics or locations please let one of us know before the next meeting.

We walked about the possibility of senior members of the Institute acting as mentors for more junior ones. There is an Institute policy and guidelines on this to help potential participants understand what is expected of them on both sides and some partnerships are already in place. If you would like to be a mentor, or think that your professional work and growth could be helped by having one, then please get in touch with me or one of the committee and we will start to pair people up. The programme is likely to involve only an hour or so of your time every few months.

Our next meeting is September 12th - as usual just a one hour telephone conference call. So if you have anything to raise with us, please get in touch before then.

Newsletter submission dates for 2006

The remaining submissions dates for the NZ Chapter newsletter for 2006 are:

- Monday 9 October, 5pm
- Monday 27 November, 5pm

All submissions to sarah.pritchett@vuw.ac.nz

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