

# NZ Chapter NEWSLETTER

An Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand Publication

## A Belated Happy New Year

Welcome to the first EIANZ NZ Chapter newsletter of 2006. Hopefully you all managed to have a good break at some stage over the holiday season and have eased back into work life without too much of a struggle!

## Executive Meeting February 10

This is the first of what will be a regular report from the NZ Chapter Exec meetings. We meet about 5 times a year – usually by telephone conference call. But in February the Executive came to Christchurch and we were able to spend a whole day talking about the future strategy and actions for the NZ members.

The members present were Judith Roper-Lindsay, Ian Spellerberg, Leo Fietje, Mike O'Connell, David Clendon, Gabi Torkington and Jenny Keene. Brian Walsh, the membership secretary joined us, but Peter Skelton was unable to attend.

After dealing with "housekeeping" at which the Treasurer (Leo) reported a sound operating budget, we reviewed membership. The number of members is growing steadily, but we feel that an effort is needed to expand – especially in the main centres. Central Office (Melbourne) is currently producing new membership leaflets and we will be preparing an insert relevant to potential Kiwi members. We intend that this will be written in English and Maori.

We also hope to establish stronger "branches" by holding seminars, workshops or training sessions around the country. If you have any suggestions for topics for these please let me know. There are also funds available for Branch activities, so if you have an idea for promoting the EIANZ in your area, to establish a Branch, or run a workshop – just contact me or Leo Fietje for details of how to access money!

Nick Early (from Restore Media Services) talked to us about increasing the profile of the Institute and Chapter through the media (press releases are a thing of the past!) and working with similar organisations (co-operation is in!). We will be reviewing our "external relations" especially

with organisations that were contacted at the formation of the Chapter (e.g. RMLA., NZPI and NZILA).

Rob Savory (Chair of the New Zealand CEnvP Panellists) gave us a review of the CEnvP scheme here. The first "batch" of successful NZ candidates will be presented with their certificates by the Minister for the Environment (Hon David Benson-Pope) at a small function in Christchurch on March 9.

We discussed how to recruit and service specific groups of members. We have a small student membership and would like to expand this – we will investigate possibilities for student attendance and papers at the Adelaide conference and we're keen to hear from student members about what they expect from the Chapter! We would also like to provide better for our Maori members and are working to improve our understanding of the needs of Maori environmental professionals – the opportunities for a bicultural workshop or seminar are being looked into. There has always been provision in the Institute to set up Special Interest Sections; we are looking at options to set up at least one of these for a group of practitioners in NZ – more in the next issue about this I hope.

Finally we set dates for the next two meetings: 22 March and 26 April; and for the NZ Chapter AGM - 28 July 2006.

So this was a long day but we feel we made some good decisions and each left the meeting with a long "actions list". If you have any ideas or comments about the things we discussed, or matters that you would like us to discuss at the next meeting., please contact one of the Executive.

Judith Roper-Lindsay  
President, NZ Chapter

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## Journal articles

The Australasian Journal of Environmental Management is our journal and is the ideal place to publish your work on a wide range of environmental practice topics. However, the Journal is dominated by articles focusing on subjects of mainly Australian interest. This is all excellent material, and provides valuable information experience and practice that we can use in New Zealand. But it would be good to see more "local" research and practice issues addressed. This is the only refereed environmental management journal that focuses on our environment and our environmental law. So please think about whether there is something in your work that is worth reporting to others in New Zealand and Australia, as a way of encouraging discussion about environmental practice here and raising the standards.

You can get information about submitting an article from the EIANZ web-site – publications.

## Walking the Talk

Want to be more sustainable at home, or know someone else who is interested? A selection of Sustainable Households evening and day classes are available at many locations across NZ. See newspage at [www.sustainablehouseholds.org.nz](http://www.sustainablehouseholds.org.nz)

## EnviroSmart™ - Improving your environmental management

In business, environmental management systems can give companies a real point of difference from their competitors. They produce significant cost savings, provide assurance of legislative compliance, and lead to more stable company systems.

EnviroSmart is a new initiative promoted by councils throughout New Zealand. The EnviroSmart programme, which was launched in February 2006, will focus on improving the environmental performance and resource use efficiency of over 500 recruited businesses nationwide. This programme builds on an initial pilot in North Shore City and an extended Auckland regional pilot programme.

Support is provided to participating businesses through site visits by EnviroSmart consultants, as well as workshops. Landcare Research is the programme manager for this new exciting initiative.

### Benefits to business

Businesses will benefit through:

- cost savings by working smarter to reduce operational expenses such as energy, water, solid waste, and raw materials;
- compliance improvement by implementing systems for health, safety and environmental management;
- environmental risk reduction by having a programme to reduce your environmental impacts;
- improved reputation, demonstrating to stakeholders that you are serious about improving your environmental performance;
- staff motivation through participation in a programme that benefits the wider community;
- building capacity by ongoing staff training and development.

### Programme costs?

Programme costs are shared between the business participants and the funding sponsors. The programme will be funded by business participants paying an agreed fee based on the number of Full Time Equivalent employees and by the sponsors, which include local and regional councils, government agencies and corporates. Please contact us for more information.

### Programme objectives

Each participating business will commit to achieving all four EnviroSmart objectives within a two-year time frame:

- Implement a resource efficiency programme that will reduce waste of raw materials and energy.
- Implement environmental procurement policies for suppliers and contractors.
- Adhere to relevant environmental accords and codes of practice.
- Achieve Enviro-Mark®NZ1 Level 3 Gold certification.



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## What the EnviroSmart support package offers participating businesses

- Site support from an EnviroSmart consultant, which includes site-specific, practical assistance to implement a resource efficiency programme, and environmental procurement policies for suppliers and contractors.
- Seven EnviroSmart mini-workshops targeted at completing the programme objectives, e.g. process mapping, benchmarking, data analysis, management of change, project champion skills.
- Three EnviroSmart workshops, which provide training in environmental management opportunities, assistance with achieving Enviro-MarkNZ<sup>1</sup> Bronze, Silver and Gold certification, and the chance to network with other regional participants.
- The online tool “E-Manage” to capture and manage data on resource use and waste outputs, which will help to demonstrate progress, and set and meet targets.
- Health, safety and environmental legislative compliance support.
- Two-year licence to Enviro-MarkNZ.<sup>1</sup>
- Three site audits by an approved Enviro-MarkNZ<sup>1</sup> auditor against Bronze, Silver and Gold levels.

<sup>1</sup>. Enviro-Mark®NZ is an Internet-based tool for health, safety, and environmental management. The tool is implemented progressively in five levels and support is provided through a free helpline. Read more about Enviro-MarkNZ on [www.enviro-mark.co.nz](http://www.enviro-mark.co.nz)

### Joining the programme

If you would like more information about the programme, please visit our website: [www.envirosmart.co.nz](http://www.envirosmart.co.nz) or contact: Kalle Howlett (Sustainable Business Client Support) Phone: 0800 366 275 Email: [envirosmart@landcareresearch.co.nz](mailto:envirosmart@landcareresearch.co.nz)

## Across the Ditch

This is a new regular piece in the NZ newsletter that will remind you about what is happening in the Australian Divisions of EIANZ.

### Corporate Social Responsibility

The EIANZ External Relations Committee is currently preparing a submission in response to the Corporate Social Responsibility Discussion Paper issued by the Corporations and Markets Advisory Committee (CAMAC). CAMAC is an advisory body within the Australian Government Treasury portfolio and on-line copies of the discussion paper are available at the CAMAC website: [www.camac.gov.au](http://www.camac.gov.au).

### EIANZ Conference 2006 in Adelaide

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:

- Environmental education
- Environmental planning
- Environmental assessment
- Environmental approvals
- Environmental auditing
- Environmental research
- Environmental reporting
- Business development for the environmental contractor/consultants.

Abstract submissions are now being accepted for the EIANZ 2006 Conference.

### Closing Date

Abstracts of no more than 250 words should be submitted by the extended date of 20 March 2006.

### Where to Send Abstracts

If you wish to submit an abstract for consideration, you can use the on-line form or via email as an attachment to [events@plevin.com.au](mailto:events@plevin.com.au) or mail on disc (preferably in MS Word) to EIANZ2006 PO Box 54 BURNSIDE South Australia 5066.

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## What's Happening at the Ministry

Each edition, the Ministry for the Environment will provide an update on recent events in our work programmes. In this issue, we talk about RMA guidance and training for practitioners.

The third round of the Making Good Decisions programme is due to kick off in April this year, with seven workshops spread through the country. Over 700 RMA decision-makers have now successfully completed the programme. The Ministry will also be providing a one-day update seminar for those accredited to provide more in-depth guidance on the recent changes to the RMA. The Quality Planning website continues to move from strength to strength. Now boasting over 70 guidance notes, new guidance will soon be released on Land Transport Noise, Tourism, Earthworks and Esplanade Reserves. Further guidance is under development on peri-urban issues, residential, commercial and industrial standards, and natural hazards (jointly with the Minister of Civil Defense and Emergency Management). The Ministry is also in the last stages of identifying areas for RMA practitioner training. This has been a comprehensive exercise of identifying the training needs of RMA practitioners and developing options to cater for those needs. We expect to be able to report on the options mid year. The Ministry also continues to provide one-off training workshops, with workshops on structure planning, RMA monitoring and reporting, and enforcement being rolled out over the next few months.

### Bathing beaches

The Ministry has just released a short report on bathing beach water quality in New Zealand. The report draws together regional council data to provide a national snapshot of water quality at coastal beaches and river and lake swimming spots for the summer seasons of 2003/04 and 2004/05. The report can be viewed at: [www.mfe.govt.nz/state/reporting/recreational-water/index.html](http://www.mfe.govt.nz/state/reporting/recreational-water/index.html)

### Airshed maps

In September 2005 regional councils and unitary authorities identified airsheds where air quality is likely, or known, to exceed national air quality standards. Maps of the airsheds around New Zealand can be found at: [www.mfe.govt.nz/laws/standards/airsheds/index.html](http://www.mfe.govt.nz/laws/standards/airsheds/index.html)

## Newsletter submission dates for 2006

EIANZ NZ Chapter newsletter submissions dates for 2006 are:

- Monday 29 May, 5pm
- Monday 24 July, 5pm
- Monday 2 October, 5pm
- Monday 27 November, 5pm

All submissions to [sarah.pritchett@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:sarah.pritchett@vuw.ac.nz)

## EIANZ NZ Chapter Sub-Committees

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### Finance, Sponsorship & Corporate Matters

Coordinator:

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