

FROM THE EDITOR .....	1
FROM THE PRESIDENT .....	1
MEET THE EXEC.....	2
EIANZ COUNCIL MEETING REPORT .....	3
EIANZ 2010 CONFERENCE UPDATE .....	4
THINGS OF INTEREST .....	4
CONFERENCES AND TRAINING .....	4
BRANCH EVENTS.....	5



NZ Chapter Newsletter

# EIANZ

November 2009

## FROM THE EDITOR

*Erik van Eyndhoven*

This newsletter issue focuses on the numerous achievements the NZ Chapter and wider Institute has made during the year and outlines work for the coming year. There are many exciting things in the pipeline and 2010 is shaping up to be an eventful year for the Institute.

I'd also like to once again recognise the excellent contributions Ross Cullen has made to the newsletter in the past year or so. Due to other commitments he won't be able to continue to make regular contributions, but I'd like to thank him for all the time and effort that went into his thought provoking articles. The newsletter is only as good as the articles we receive and we have been lucky

to have someone of Ross's calibre providing regular contributions.

This naturally leads me onto requests for contributions from other members. I know you all plan to make contributions next year, so I look forward to receiving them – hopefully not all at once.

The deadline for contributions to the next newsletter will be Friday the 12<sup>th</sup> of February 2010 – send your articles, news items, events or ideas to me at [erik.vaneyndhoven@maf.govt.nz](mailto:erik.vaneyndhoven@maf.govt.nz).

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Tom Burkitt ([nzpresident@eianz.org.nz](mailto:nzpresident@eianz.org.nz))*

The NZ Chapter Executive recently met face-to-face in Wellington to prepare for the coming year, a year set to be a big one for our Chapter. The executive team remains strong and very enthusiastic about the plans put in place to strengthen the NZ Chapter and the value of our services to members. These are some specific highlights from the meeting:

- The NZ Exec has adopted a collaborative strategy to grow the Institute, increase value for members, and raise the Institute's profile in New Zealand.
- We now have a business plan and prioritised actions that will be circulated to members shortly.

- We can confirm that our conference in Wellington (October 2010) is very much on track and looks set to be a flag-ship event for our Institute and environmental practitioners
- Our Chapter's finances are healthy and we have capacity to invest in member services
- We are preparing to adapt and introduce to New Zealand the STEP programme for professional development towards Certified Practitioner status
- We have a plan to develop the Auckland branch in 2010
- Confirmation that Ian Spellerberg has accepted a role on the NZ Exec (he's a key mentor and



contributor for us, and so I'm very happy that he is still closely involved with our operations)

- A commitment from the Ministry for Environment to engage with the Institute via the newly formed Environmental Protection Agency ([www.epa.govt.nz](http://www.epa.govt.nz))

I have been reflecting on progress over the past 18 months, and it is pleasing to note that we now have several people from NZ who are directly involved with the overall EIANZ Executive and Council, or leading key committees and work groups. This presence at the top of our Institute should improve how we leverage the trans-Tasman relationship and develop strategies for the Institute that are more inclusive of NZ interests or recognise the key differences between the two countries.

It is also satisfying to know that we are making progress as we seek to engage Central Government and, in particular, the Ministry for Environment (MfE). Indeed, at a meeting with MfE prior to our Executive face-to-face, we came to an agreement with senior ministry officials to

liaise formally with Ministry via the head of the EPA ([www.epa.govt.nz](http://www.epa.govt.nz)). They were very interested in our strategy, our plans at a local and national level, and keen to have a presence at our conference next year.

Before signing off, I would like to ask you to consider volunteering in 2010 to assist your branch coordinators. It is through our events that we provide most value to our members, and we have developed a reputation for putting on very good seminars, presentations, and workshops. With tighter integration of the branches and a developing toolbox for events organisation, it is easier than ever before to join in and be part of a successful event. So, do get in touch with your local branch coordinator if you can help out. Go on - it's fun!

Finally, I wish you all a very happy Christmas and I look forward to working with you in 2010.

## MEET THE EXEC

*As a continuation of the 'meet the exec' theme, Jo Buckner, a New Zealand Chapter Councillor of the EIANZ, introduces herself.*



Based in Upper Hutt, Jo first joined EIANZ in 2005 and took on the role of New Zealand Councillor in late 2007.

Jo is a "join the dots" person working in strategic areas where problems tend to be systemic and cat herding skills are of value. With the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF), she focuses on

energy innovation in the primary production sector and distributed generation in rural communities. She also works on a range of other sector policy issues including transport, infrastructure, climate change, forestry and bioenergy.

Some years ago, Jo decided to follow her heart, become a professional truck driver and study extramurally through Massey University for a business degree – choices that led to a supply chain career culminating in the role of Order Fulfillment Director at Fletcher Wood Panels in Auckland.

A short stint working in the crazy, money-driven desert-world of the United Arab Emirates fuelled a growing environmental conscience and Jo accepted a Massey scholarship to do postgraduate studies in natural resource management. This study enabled her to join the public sector in 2002 as a transport advisor with the Energy Efficiency & Conservation Authority (EECA).

In 2003, she joined the Ministry of Transport and, as Group Manager - Environment, led the Ministry's policy

development in relation to energy, climate change and other environmental impacts of transport. During 2006/07 she returned to EECA to lead the development of the New Zealand Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy (NZECS), which in turn brought her to MAF where she has been working part-time on primary sector energy issues for the past couple of years.

In July of this year Jo traveled to Melbourne to take part in training for Al Gore's Climate Project – an inspiring gathering of 300 people from over 19 countries. Within the project she will be providing presentation support to the other New Zealand team members.

Jo has recently been appointed as a Director of Marlborough Lines Ltd. – the company that operates the electricity distribution network in Marlborough. Originally from Picton, she is looking forward to new governance challenges and returning something to her "home" community.

Outside work, she is married to Garry and has three fur-babies – two Tonkinese cats and a young Dobermann (a.k.a. The Red Tornado). She is also a keen motorcyclist and will wax lyrical about fuel efficiency and the catalytic converter in the BMW F800S she recently acquired. She also has a range of creative pursuits, including "as organic as I can make it" vegetable gardening. Ask about her garlic and the tractor some time .....



# EIANZ COUNCIL MEETING REPORT

Jo Buckner, New Zealand Councillor

This year's face-to-face Council meeting was held in Canberra in October immediately prior to the conference. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend but New Zealand was represented by Ian Spellerberg (Vice-President NZ) and Leo Fietje (Secretary). Highlights of the meeting are shown below:

## Founding Statements of the Institute

Following a review, the Institute's Vision Statement, Mission Statement and the Primary Purposes have been updated. The Vision Statement has been updated to read: *Sustainable and equitable management of the environment through excellence in environmental practice*. You can see all the relevant changes on the website: <http://www.eianz.org/aboutus/about-us>.

It was also agreed that the term "environmental practitioner" will be used from now on, rather than the more confusing "environmental professional". A review of the *Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct* is now underway for discussion at the next Council Meeting in January 2010.

## Improvement in Finances

Finances have consolidated over the past year and the Institute showed a surplus of \$130,000. This is a fantastic turnaround considering that there was a deficit of around \$65,000 in the previous year.

## Governance

A number of issues in the running of the Institute were discussed:

- o improving communications between Divisions, the Executive and Council
- o reducing the high workloads of Divisional Presidents
- o the need for Executive backup and/or "proxy" councillors
- o succession planning and leadership roles
- o better use of the event management skills available in Central Office

There was discussion about the need for a Chief Executive Officer and further work is being undertaken to set out what the role would look like and to determine how it would be funded.

## The Green Collar Worker Report

The New South Wales Division, as part of their *Evolution or Revolution* initiative, have worked with Connection Research to produce the Green Collar Worker Report. This is the first serious attempt in Australia to define just who green collar workers are and to determine what support they need as professionals addressing environmental issues. Have a look on the website at <http://www.eianz.org/news/id/71>.

## Policy & Practice Committee: Position Statement on Biodiversity

The Position Statement on Biodiversity has been finalised and will soon be loaded on to the website at <http://www.eianz.org/publications/position-statements>.

## Professional Development

Demand for professional development, with a focus on the Certified Environmental Practitioner (CEnvP) and Staged Training for Environmental Practitioners (STEP) programmes, continues to increase. There are a number of initiatives either under way or under development:

- o forming a Professional Development Standing Committee to produce a 3-5 year plan for professional development activities
- o developing and rolling out the STEP programme, with support from Queensland government funding
- o re-establishing mentoring through the STEP programme
- o developing technical competencies/standards for CEnvP certification, such as impact assessment and ecology
- o online delivery of professional development via the new website e.g. live webinars

Also, where possible, it has been agreed that each Division should have a CEnvP advocate to act as a CEnvP information officer, for a period of 12 months.

Please contact me on 027 241 0611 or at [buckwill@xtra.co.nz](mailto:buckwill@xtra.co.nz) if you would like any more information or to become involved in any of these Institute activities.



# EIANZ 2010 CONFERENCE UPDATE

## From Discovery to Delivery: Science, Policy, Leadership, Action - 27 to 29 October 2010

The 2010 EIANZ Conference is being held in Wellington, New Zealand at Te Papa Tongarewa, National Museum of New Zealand.

2010 is International Year of Biodiversity and the conference reflects this from its title of *From Discovery to Delivery: Science, Policy, Leadership and Action* through to the conference streams. The organising committee has identified the four elements in the conference title as being essential to any initiatives aimed at achieving sound environmental management. The streams within the conference will focus on these elements as they discuss such topics as effective ways to value and monitor ecosystems, how to galvanise communities into sustained environmental action and how to plan our urban environments in ways that protect the natural environment and foster biodiversity. There will be a specific stream to look at effective ways to address "wicked" problems such as climate change and non-point

source pollution. Leadership from all parts of society – from central government to community groups will be a particular focus of the conference with a wide range of industry representatives presenting case studies of their initiatives in this regard.

The organising committee, comprising EIANZ members from Tauranga through to Dunedin have a full 2 days planned followed by a day of field trips to a variety of exciting locations around Wellington region.

Further updates will be posted in future newsletters, but in the mean time keep an eye out on the EIANZ website for the conference promotional video – it was a 'hit' with attendees at the recent Canberra conference (along with the waiata performed by the kiwi attendees after the video was launched), with a number of people putting the 2010 conference in their diaries!

## THINGS OF INTEREST

### December 2009 CEnvP Intake

The next intake for the CEnvP Program will close 21st December 2009. A new application form has been made available. Start your application early to avoid processing delays. Visit [www.cenvp.org](http://www.cenvp.org) for more information.

### Meeting the Challenges of the Future - a blueprint for environmental practitioners...

This blueprint is built around three key messages:

- The new challenges of the future will require new approaches from practitioners;
- Environmental practitioners are not well prepared to meet the future challenges;
- The Institute is determined to help practitioners to rise to these future challenges.

Read more here >>> [www.eianz.org/sitebuilder/publications/knowledge/asset/files/14/blueprintpdf.pdf](http://www.eianz.org/sitebuilder/publications/knowledge/asset/files/14/blueprintpdf.pdf)

### Photo voltaic survey

How much do you know about using photovoltaics to generate power? Would you try it?

For his MBA at Auckland University, Ian Mather is conducting a survey to assess the potential demand for domestic photovoltaic power generation in New Zealand. Ian's survey is targeting homeowners in the Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch regions. He would greatly appreciate about 5-10 minutes of your time to complete the survey.

<http://FreeOnlineSurveys.com/rendersurvey.asp?sid=637cm54pm9tl56r653194>

Electricity consumption in New Zealand is expected to increase well into the future, placing pressure on our fossil fuel resources, our generation capacity and also our geothermal reserves. We are already experiencing associated electricity price increases. Photovoltaics may be the answer. PV cells convert sunlight into usable domestic solar electricity. It has very low environmental impact; and is cost effective given sufficient demand.

## CONFERENCES AND TRAINING

### Island Invasives: Eradication and Management

Monday, 8 February 2010 - Friday, 12 February 2010

<http://www.cbb.org.nz/conferences.asp>



# BRANCH EVENTS

## Wellington Branch

What: EIANZ Christmas drinks

When: Tuesday, 8 December 2009

Time: 6 pm

Venue: Hashigo Zake, 25 Taranaki Street, Wellington  
(it's downstairs, down the lane beside Zibibbo)

Please rsvp to [vanessa\\_browne@urscorp.com](mailto:vanessa_browne@urscorp.com) by Tuesday 1 December. We've got a bar tab we'd like to share with EIANZ members, but we'd also like some ideas from you. So please join us and bring one idea for a workshop/panel discussion you'd like next year Also, please include in your rsvp email one piece of true, but perhaps rather random, information about yourself e.g. I once got caught in a snow storm in Antarctica / I've run 4 marathons in 4 months / all my clothes pegs are pink - you get the idea!

## Wellington Branch Event report - Setting the Standards/Ethics in Business and Environmental Practice

Following a similar event in Christchurch earlier in the year, the Wellington branch of the EIANZ held a successful event at the Beca office in Molesworth Street last Tuesday (17th November). Over twenty attendees took part in a very lively and interactive discussion around environmental ethics with a panel of highly regarded speakers including Ced Croft (Terra Pacific Consulting Ltd and former lecturer on ethics) who tackled the thorny issue of what ethics are and why they matter.

Ralph Chapman (Associate Professor and Director of the Graduate Programme in Environmental Studies at Victoria University) then followed with a thought-provoking discussion regarding the ethical dilemmas people are facing. Tom Bennion from Bennion Law followed up with addressing the tricky question of 'are we there yet?' (which we all agreed - not quite) and what ethical approaches he has observed. Murray Wu (General Manager of Business Transformation) from Kiwibank then provided some interesting insights and examples as to whether our systems are demanding ethical accountancy and whether ethical behaviour intrinsically occurs without written guidelines. Charlotte Cudby, an Environmental Economist from Nimmo-Bell & Company Limited then rounded out the discussions nicely by adding insight to previous questions including how we would recognise we were practising ethical approaches in situations involving both business and the environment.

A big thanks to everyone involved.

There was also a bit of discussion around our own Code of Ethics, which many people commented has been of great use to them as a guideline in the past. If you need to use the Code or just feel like refreshing your memory, you can find it on our website at: <http://www.eianz.org/membershipinfo/eianz-code-of-ethics>

### EIANZ NZ Chapter Sub-Committees

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*Vacant*

Policy and Program Coordinator:

*Vacant*

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