



NZ Chapter NEWSLETTER

An Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand Publication

In This Issue...

News from the Exec Committee, Adelaide conference and branch activities.

Introducing the New Executive Committee Members for 2006-07

Rex Verity – *Secretary*. Rex is the environmental manager and sustainability advocate at CPIT (Christchurch Polytechnic Institute of Technology), as well as being a husband, father of 2 teenagers, the Sustainable Aotearoa NZ Treasurer, and a member of: Organics in Canterbury (Canterbury Commercial Organics); Australasian Campuses Towards Sustainability; Sustainable Business Network Southern; and Sustainable Otautahi Christchurch.

Rex has previously been employed as: executive director of Sustainable Cities Trust; manager, Environmental Education and Employment Trust; manager, Canterbury Community Business Trust; organic farmer; area manager, pharmaceutical company; teacher, primary and intermediate school; and nurse. He has also been involved in numerous community organisations including the Green Party, and various organic and social justice organisations.

Diane Shelander – *committee member*. Diane has been with the Christchurch City Council as a senior resource planner focused primarily on waste minimisation since her arrival in New Zealand in June 2003.

Prior to moving to New Zealand, Diane was living in the Santa Cruz Mountains and working at NASA's Ames Research Centre in the south San Francisco Bay area of California. Ames is one of NASA's ten field centres, specialising in aeronautics, space, materials and life sciences, and IT development. Diane was the Environmental Programme Manager for Ames, overseeing the day-to-day operation of much of the centre's environmental programs including hazardous waste management, PCB monitoring programme, oil spill prevention, countermeasures and control program, storm water management, and hazardous materials management.

Diane has also worked as an internal safety and

environmental consultant at the University of California and Applied Biosystems. Her employment history also includes a 2-year stint as a health trainer and advisor to the Ghanaian government.

She has a Master of Public Health, with a Safety, Health and Environmental Management specialisation, earned from Tulane University, as well as a 4-year Bachelor degree from the University of California.

EIANZ New Zealand Chapter News

Membership Secretary

Brian Walsh has recently had to resign as membership Secretary to the NZ Chapter. As many of you know, Brian is Events Co-ordinator with the Sustainable Business Network (Southern Region) and this work has been increasingly taking more of his time so he is giving up his active role with the Institute.

We are talking to someone else about taking on the role, and will let you know as soon as they are appointed. At the same time we have been working with Central Office to improve the processing of applications and renewals to provide a much more professional service.

If you, or someone you know, has problems or issues with membership issues during this time, please accept our apologies and contact Judith (judith.roperlindsay@boffamiskell.co.nz) or Leo Fietje (leo.fietje@ecan.govt.nz). We should have the system back on track by the middle of November at the very latest.

Liaison with other organisations

We are often asked if the New Zealand Chapter of the EIANZ is a competitor with other professional bodies or organisations servicing or supporting similar practitioners. The answer is a definite NO. EIANZ is open to anyone from any area of environmental practice and is not exclusive to a single discipline. In brief, our key messages are:

- promotion of independent and inter-disciplinary discussion of environmental issues;
- capacity-building in environmental practices to promote good environmental



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- outcomes for sustainability;
- advocacy for best practice by competent and ethical practitioners;
- demonstrating excellence in environmental practice.

These aims mean that we work with everyone in the “environmental” area, to ensure that we can work together for the best outcomes for the environment. We are particularly able to foster inter-disciplinary and multi-disciplinary discussions about a wide range of topics, and believe that the very nature of the environment means that this is essential to best practice.

Judith was very kindly invited to attend the recent conference of the Resource Management Law Association in Auckland after Alan Dormer, the RMLA President, attended our Christchurch conference in 2005. Their theme was “Pathways to Sustainability” and brought together some challenging keynote speakers presenting ideas on urban and rural expansion, market forces and climate change issues. We hope that we can work closely with the RMLA on this topic in future. We are also looking at similar liaison with the NZ Planning Institute.

So if you are also a member of another professional body or organization that you think would be interested in working with us on environmental best practice - or on anything within our key messages - please let one of the Executive know.

Executive Meetings

Executive Committee tele-conference calls took place on September 12 and October 10. Much of the discussion over the last two months has been around conferences - briefing for the Adelaide conference in September (see separate article) and planning for 2007. Next year is the 20th anniversary of the Institute and there are plans for a series of one-day seminars or mini-conferences around Australia and New Zealand. It is likely (though yet to be confirmed) that the New Zealand Chapter AGM and 20th Anniversary “Conference” will be held in Christchurch in August 2007. If you are interested in helping with an event at another venue, please contact one of the Executive.

NZ Chapter Executive Committee

President – Dr Judith Roper-Lindsay
Judith.Roperlindsay@boffamiskell.co.nz

Vice-President – Prof Ian Spellerberg
spelleri@lincoln.ac.nz

Secretary – Rex Verity
verityr@cpit.ac.nz

Treasurer, Councillor – Leo Fietje
leo.fietje@ecan.govt.nz

Exec member, Councillor, Vice-President NZ – Peter Skelton
skeltonp@lincoln.ac.nz

Exec member – Diane Shelander
diane.shelander@ccc.govt.nz

Exec member – David Clendon
dclendon@gw.unitec.ac.nz

Exec member – Gabi Torkington
gabi.torkington@envirowaste.co.nz

Non-executive positions

Membership Secretary – To be appointed

Newsletter editor – Sarah Pritchett
Sarah.Pritchett@vuw.ac.nz

The next meeting is on 14 November.

News from the EIANZ Policy and Practice Standing Committee

David Clendon

Two items of information from the Policy and Practice Standing Committee, on which I am the New Zealand Chapter's representative.

The committee has drafted policy statements on Climate Change; Sustainability; Water; and Energy.

These are now posted on the EIANZ website (go to 'About EIANZ'; 'Standing Committees'; 'Policy and Practice'). We would welcome feedback and comment from the membership about these draft policies, which will be incorporated into the final draft for ratification by the end of 2006.

We are also beginning to draft policy on Consumption and Waste, and on Biodiversity.



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Anyone with an interest and/or expertise in these areas is encouraged to contribute ideas to inform the process. You may direct your comments to me (dclendon@unitec.ac.nz) or to any member of the committee.

ElANZ Conference 2006, Adelaide – some personal reflections



Mark Pizey (Solid Energy) and Susan Chapman (MoT) at the conference dinner, Adelaide Hilton

Judith Roper-Lindsay

The Institute's 19th Conference was held in Adelaide from 17 to 20th September and I was one of about 15 New Zealand members who made the trip to South Australia for the event. The city was "enjoying" an early spring heat wave when we arrived – during the next few days with our Aussie colleagues we quickly learned of their three main environmental issues – no need for a poll amongst professionals. They are water, water and water (with climate change a close equal). The issue of water – lack of it, management of catchments, quality and distribution – was a recurring theme of our four days in SA. But we also learnt that while the Federal Government might not have signed the Kyoto Protocol, the States, Territories, Regions and communities are active in planning and management for climate change.

The theme of the conference was "Environmental Practice", which provided the way for a wide range of papers. The conference formula was a mix of keynote addresses, submitted presentations and workshops. The

keynote speakers were excellent, covering management of the water resources of the Murray-Darling Basin; climate change; strategic planning in South Australia; biodiversity planning in the Adelaide and Lofty Ranges Region; and local Government in New Zealand. These presentations reminded us of the differences between our countries in scale as well as in the government planning and management systems which exist in response to these differences. And how much we can learn from each other.

There was a range of submitted papers. Most were excellent, but one or two reminded me that when the Institute aims to raise the standard of environmental practice in Australia and New Zealand we must also raise our ability to communicate with our peers and with the community.

Unfortunately the field trips were cancelled due to lack of interest (important lesson – don't make the field trips the last event of your conference). But the social events were successful – especially the dinner.

After the conference I was able to sit in on one day of the two-day Institute Council meeting. This was a great experience and gave me the chance to meet many people whose names I see on the web-site or on emails. And a chance to catch up with the representatives from South East Queensland (SEQ) which has four hundred members and employs a part-time staff member to service the Division; to see the diverse professions and age-groups around the table; to try to remember the lists of Special Interest Sections (SIS), sub-committees (on which we do have New Zealand members); and to realise what a high profile the Institute has in Australia. I was pleased to hear that in some States, membership of the Institute is a condition of employment!

I am pleased that I made the effort to travel to Adelaide. The City itself has a good record for moving towards sustainable management – new electric buses (imported from Canterbury!), drought-resistant plantings and public landscape works, and wide use of solar power. It was a great opportunity to meet the Aussies on their own patch and hear about their many examples of excellent environmental practice.

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Sarah Pritchett

Despite the major change to my life this year (the birth of my son in April), I was *determined* to make it to the EIANZ conference in Adelaide. I attended last year's conference in Christchurch and still believe it is the best conference I have ever attended. It was the first time I had been to a conference where I found it hard to decide which session to attend. I left the conference feeling inspired and challenged.

So with my son and husband in tow I headed over to the Adelaide conference ready for more. This time there was less of the passion and enthusiasm that the Christchurch conference provided, and more focus on some of the serious environmental problems facing the Australians.

It was a great opportunity to visit Adelaide for the first time. While driving over to Melbourne afterwards to visit friends we witnessed Australia's water issues firsthand. It gave us a new appreciation for the wet winter we've just experienced!

Branch activities

Christchurch/Canterbury Branch has two more events planned this year.

15 November – Diane Shelander (CCC): Hazardous waste management

6 December – visit to the display and model for Pegasus Township, with an update on construction progress from Project Manager and Cultural Advisor. (Followed by pre-Xmas drinks)

Out-of-town members are very welcome to attend these. Contact a "local" for further details.

Auckland

1 December – Train the trainer workshops. This is a non-profit workshop for environmental practitioners. It aims to promote environmental awareness for supervisors and leading hands and developing national environmental training guidelines.

Cost: \$55

Venue: Waipuna Conference Facility, Mt Wellington, Auckland

Please see attached fliers for more info and for registration form

MFE Update

Gina Sweetman

Senior Adviser, RMA Implementation, MFE

In the March 2006 EIANZ Newsletter, we reported that the Ministry was working on a training framework for RMA practitioners. The consultant team commissioned to identify both training needs and options for addressing those needs has since provided its recommended options. The Ministry is now consulting with professional bodies such as EIANZ, and employer associations such as SOLGM, on those recommendations. As a priority, the Ministry is working to develop comprehensive introductory level training for practitioners assuming key roles in the resource consent process, before July 2007. The Ministry anticipates that structured, high quality training will assist practitioners in developing career paths and in meeting their continuing professional development obligations, while also helping employers to address retention and capacity issues. In the interim, the Ministry will continue to provide nationwide one-off training workshops, in partnership with professional organisations. Check out upcoming MfE led training on:
www.mfe.govt.nz/rma/practitioners/index.html

The Ministry's new set of RMA resources aimed at helping small business and the public "get in on the Act" was launched by both Environment Minister Benson-Pope and Small Business Minister Dalziel at the end of August. The resources include an interactive CD-ROM, 13 booklets, new web pages and a free phone information line. The booklets and web pages provide users with information on how to get involved in RMA processes. The CD-ROM is a practical tool, including electronic forms, tip sheets and film clips explaining RMA processes, contact details for councils, and links to other useful resources. If you want to find out more, you can order free copies of the CD-ROM and booklets by emailing publications@mfe.govt.nz. The new web pages can be viewed at www.rma.govt.nz. This new webpage also includes resources for RMA practitioners. The RMA information line operates weekdays between 9am and 4:30pm, 0800 RMA INFO (0800 762 4636).



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Newsletter submission dates for 2006

The submission date for the last NZ Chapter newsletter for 2006 is:

- Monday 27 November, 5pm

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



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