



ENVIRONMENT
INSTITUTE OF
AUSTRALIA AND
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NZ Chapter NEWSLETTER

An Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand Publication

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It's a cliché but isn't it unbelievable how fast this year has gone? It has been heartening to see the "tipping point" on mainstream acceptance of climate change has finally happened here (and in Australia as you will read in the article by Nick Potter on p 4). This may have been helped somewhat by Al Gore's documentary and global tour (see p for a review). Now let's hope the real work to address it will begin. Judith Roper-Lindsay has written to the Prime Minister supporting the Government's positive statements made in October about action on climate change issues and offering the skills of EIANZ members to make these actions happen. She will be following this up in 2007.

We hope everyone had a great year and look forward to working together next year to continue the effort to truly make Aotearoa New Zealand "clean and green". Happy holidays from the Exec and newsletter team.

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Train the trainer workshop *David Clendon*



Gabi Torkington and Rob Savory, the workshop organisers, in the sin bin!

On Friday 1 December the EIANZ hosted a one day 'Train the Trainer' workshop at Auckland's Waipuna Conference Centre. Gabi Torkington and Rob Savory led thirty-three participants from around the country through a series of presentations and activities, all designed to stimulate and challenge practitioners with responsibility in their workplaces for promoting environmental awareness and best practice.

From the shared experiences of representatives of some of the 'high impact' industries – including mining, construction, waste management, aviation and manufacturing – it soon became apparent why improving on-site environmental performance is often consigned to the 'too hard' basket! A series of photographs under the heading Sin Bin demonstrated that there is a great deal of work to be done to change attitudes and awareness, and to provide individuals and companies with advice and techniques to help them get it right.

The good news is that there were also examples presented of innovative and cost-effective solutions. It is clear that despite the difficulties – technical, financial and educational – there's a very high level of willingness to 'do the right thing' environmentally, and the

Events/Important dates

December

Pegasus Display Centre
Wednesday 13 December
4-30 pm. End of year
Christmas drinks will follow

Closing date for next round of
EnvP applications: *Wednesday
20 December*

February

Ethics and the Environmental
Professional workshop: *Tuesday
13 February*

Submissions close for NES on
Water measuring devices:
Friday 16 February

Closing date for items for first
NZ Chapter newsletter of 2007:
*Monday 26 February, 5pm. To:
sarah.pritchett@vuw.ac.nz*

workshop sessions soon saw participants engaged in developing ways to overcome the barriers.

This is the first of an intended series of workshops, which through providing support, ideas and information to trainers will influence the daily practice and behaviour of the thousands of workers in New Zealand who can make a positive difference to the environment but do not yet have the know-how. If you have ideas about a suitable location for one of these sessions, please get in touch with Gabi or Rob.

The organisers would like to thank all those who gave presentations as session chairs. Workshop minutes will be disseminated on CD with some useful visual aid resources given by participants from the workshop.



From l to r; Ron Cole (McBreen Jenkins), Arsini Hanna (Winstone Aggregates), Nerena Halligan (EnviroWaste), Emma Ross (Fulton Hogan), and Bruce Mumm (Solid Energy)

Christchurch Branch Activities

In October Dr Barry Biggs from NIWA provided an update on work being done to find suitable control mechanisms for didymo. The graphic images of what didymo has done to South Island waterways were unforgettable. The talk was a timely reminder of biosecurity risks with didymo being discovered in Lake Wakatipu only weeks later.

Mike Bourke from Christchurch City Council spoke in November about the challenges the City has been working through in finding an acceptable solution to what to do with the biosolids the wastewater treatment plant produces.

A reminder that the last event for this year is a visit to the Pegasus Display Centre on Wednesday 13 December at 4-30 pm. This will be an opportunity to talk to those involved with the project as Project Manager Shane Fairmaid and Cultural Advisor Te Marino Lenihan will be speaking. End of year Christmas drinks will follow.

We have started planning events for 2007 but are interested in any ideas members have.

Ethics Seminar in Auckland

Planning is underway to offer members another one day workshop on 'Ethics and the Environmental Professional'. The workshop will be held in Auckland on 13 February 2007, and follows on from two very successful presentations in other centres this year.

Ian Spellerberg, Peter Skelton and Ced Croft will again be the primary contributors, and participants will have plenty of opportunity to engage in discussion and debate about the often fraught issue of maintaining professional integrity in the face of (sometimes) conflicting commercial and other imperatives.

Pencil in the date now – more information will be sent to members in the new year.

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Policy Feedback Sought

Members still have the opportunity to provide feedback on the Institute's draft policies on Water, Climate Change, Energy and Sustainability. The policies were drafted in response to a membership survey that identified these controversial and complex issues as 'top priority'.

The policies are posted on the website (see the link from the home page), and there are a number of channels offered on the site for comments. Alternatively, you may direct feedback to David Clendon, the New Zealand Chapter representative on the Institute's Policy and Practice Standing Committee: dclendon@unitec.ac.nz

We are also drafting new policy on Consumption and Waste, and on Biodiversity. Anyone with an interest and/or expertise in these areas is encouraged to contribute ideas to inform the process.

Certified Environmental Practitioner

The closing date for the next round of applications is 20 December 2006.

An opportunity for professional Indemnity Insurance has been obtained and there are financial benefits for those with CEnvP. Please check the CEnvP Web site.

Australia's Shifting Climate of Communities Demanding Change – Nick Potter

For those working in the sustainability area, the pace of change can often be frustrating. Over the last six months I have therefore found it heartening to be in Australia while there has been such a rapid surge in community support for action on climate change. Until relatively recently there has been significant skepticism in Australia about the realities of human-induced climate change (and this skepticism has been fuelled by the federal government, some powerful industries and many media commentators). The tides have now turned. According to recent polls, for example:

- 91 percent of Australians believe global warming is a problem;
- 62 percent of voters are unhappy with the federal government's response; and
- 60 per cent of Australians believe climate change will be important in determining their vote at the next federal election.

Over 40,000 people marched in Melbourne on November 4 to demand that political parties get serious about climate change. Another 40,000 marched in Sydney. Climate change has also been a high profile issue in recent state elections. Meanwhile, many media outlets have become highly critical of the Howard government's response to climate change and their refusal to ratify the Kyoto Protocol.

Public pressure for action on climate change is obviously building momentum worldwide, including in New Zealand. In Australia, however, seasoned sustainability practitioners have commented that the scale and speed of the shifts here are unlike anything they have experienced before. Although the changes seem swift, they have been a long time in the making. Some key influences include:

- the relentless efforts of many individuals, community groups and some long-sighted business leaders to drive change;
- political manoeuvring by State governments, as they seek to establish a national carbon trading scheme;
- some excellent journalism, which has held the Howard government to account; and
- international influences, such as the 'Stern report' and Al Gore's highly publicised movie, *An Inconvenient Truth*.

Miscellaneous

PCE's web-forum

The PCE has a web-forum for comments about NZ's progress towards sustainability as part of his 2007 Review. Every two weeks a different topic will be opened for discussion. EIANZ members are encouraged to contribute to the debate.

<http://www.pce.govt.nz/>

New membership Secretary

Those of you with sharp eyes will have noticed we have a new Membership Secretary: Eric Scott. Eric will be properly introduced in the next newsletter. In the meantime send any membership enquiries to mescott@clear.net.nz

The Newsletter Needs You!

This newsletter is only as good as the articles it gets so please help by submitting items you think may be of interest to other EIANZ members. Relevant book, movie and website reviews are welcomed, as is news of any recent projects you or your organisation have completed.

Please send all items to sarah.pritchett@vuw.ac.nz

Significantly, Australia is also in the grip of one of the worst droughts on record. Over half of all farmland is now eligible for drought relief and there is a growing concern that rainfall levels will never return to 'normal' when the drought ends. Long-term, the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) forecasts that rainfall in parts of eastern Australia could drop 40 percent this century due to climate change. For many Australians, however, the first tastes of climate change can already be felt. Water storage levels in Victoria are around 40 percent (before summer starts), homes and businesses are under strict water restrictions, the bushfire season has started early, and friends tell stories about lakes where they once had family holidays (the lakes are now barren beds of earth).

Rising public pressure has driven the federal government to shift their rhetoric on climate change in recent months. The government, including the Prime Minister, have now conceded that climate change is real and that Australia needs to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions. They even insist that Australia will meet its Kyoto protocol targets (even though Australia has not ratified this international agreement), and are calling for a "new Kyoto". The need to address climate change was also used to justify a recent inquiry into nuclear power Australia (which is another story altogether).

Australia's government is clearly still a long way from taking significant steps to tackle climate change and, with their huge dependence on coal and energy-intensive industries, Australians face enormous challenges in years ahead. Nonetheless, it is pleasing to see that a now proverbial 'tipping point' seems to have been reached and that increasingly concerned and active citizens are demanding change.

Nick Potter is an EIANZ member who normally calls Wellington home, but is currently working for Victoria's Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability.

EIANZ Member Profile

Each newsletter I will pick an EIANZ member to supply a photo and answer a few questions. Here's the first victim...



Name: Julia Lindesay

Location: Auckland

Organisation work for and position: Environmental Consultant, URS NZ Ltd

How does your work contribute to sustainable management of the environment?
Working at an environmental management and engineering consultancy gives me the opportunity to work with many different organisations to improve sustainability performance for a diverse range of projects and workplaces. Through our internal sustainability programme called 'The Things We Value' there is also ample opportunity to integrate sustainability into every aspect of our internal operations as well.

Biggest environmental challenge currently facing Aotearoa and why: The dominant perception that environmental and social sustainability issues are too big for any one person to make a positive impact on. If we all believed otherwise what a difference we could make (as noted by Al Gore in *An Inconvenient Truth*).

Biggest environmental challenge currently facing Aotearoa and why: Same as for Aotearoa/New Zealand.

How do you think EIANZ can help to meet these questions? EIANZ can help to meet these challenges by showcasing and rewarding examples of powerful and positive performance in the sustainability arena. And by continuing to provide the forums for people to share ideas and inspiration.

Environmental superheroes and heroines: Sir Peter Blake – because he was capable of making his message appealing to a wide cross-section of New Zealand society. And Chico Mendes – for obvious reasons.

Glass half full or half empty view of future of Earth and why: Half full – if we don't believe we can make a difference and resolve our current social and environmental challenges then we have already set ourselves up to fail.

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Movie Review –Julia Lindesay

Touted as "the most terrifying film you will ever see" by its makers, *An Inconvenient Truth* follows former presidential candidate Al Gore on the campaign trail. However, instead of seeking to secure the presidency of the US this campaign is about saving human society from the deadly effects of climate change. The documentary follows Gore from nation to nation as he delivers a very nifty powerpoint presentation on climate change to a diverse range of avid listeners.

Along with high impact charts and science facts the film weaves in elements of Gore's personal story and exposes his motivations for undertaking the task of raising the global populace to the realities of our shared future. While at times I found his prolific use of planes and automobiles a bit too ironic it did serve to pinpoint the difficulty we will all have in making the lifestyle changes required to reduce climate change impacts. Importantly the film ends on a positive note, leaving us with some easy individual actions that would substantially reduce climate change emissions if undertaken collectively.

Throughout the film Gore comes across as likeable and believable – perhaps he may seem an unlikely planetary hero but heck I'll take him. Even if you are familiar with the message that Gore articulates clearly in this film it is worth seeing – and very definitely worth taking someone else to see who may not be so familiar. A friend I took to see the movie summed up the power of this film: "I have heard a lot about climate change but I never really believed it was true, or knew how much it might effect me before."



MfE Update

There is a lot of work underway at the Ministry in the area of National Environment Standards and National Policy Statements:

- Consultation is underway on a proposed NES on water measuring devices, with submissions closing on 16 February 2007. The NES covers the measurement of water taken from rivers, lakes or aquifers as part of a resource consent. It sets out the minimum requirements for installing and using new water measuring devices, including the transfer of data to regional councils. Check out the proposed standard at www.mfe.govt.nz/issues/water/prog-action/index.html#nesmeasure
- Cabinet has given policy approval on the NES on sources of human drinking water. At present, the NES is going through drafting instructions and the regulation development process. It is likely to be completed by March 07, and will have a 6 month transitional period.
- Consultation on the proposed NES's on telecommunication facilities is likely to occur in February/March 07.
- Consultation on the proposed NPS and NES's on electricity transmission is likely to start in April 07.

A new contaminated land guideline entitled "Identifying, Investigating and Managing Risks Associated with Former Sheep-dip Sites" has been completed and posted on the Ministry's website, www.mfe.govt.nz. Hard-copies are available from the Ministry, publications@mfe.govt.nz. The guide was developed to raise awareness amongst council staff and landowners about the risks associated with former sheep-dip sites, particularly when pastoral land is undergoing subdivision.

For information on NES and the contaminated land guideline, please contact Glenn Wigley, Standards Manager on (04) 439 7515 or glenn.wigley@mfe.govt.nz. For information on National Policy Statements, please contact Tim Bennetts, Environmental Policy Manager on (04) 439 7408 or tim.bennetts@mfe.govt.nz

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Sustainable Present ideas (inspired by the Sustainable Business Network's list)

If you have a spare \$4000 lying around why not shout your diesel-car owning friend/partner/uncle to a biofuel conversion?

If your budget doesn't stretch to that however what about a bag of locally roasted **Fairtrade organic coffee beans** for the caffeine addict close to your heart – my tips are **People's Coffee in Newtown, Wellington**(also available from Moore Wilson) and **Upshot Coffee in Heathcote, Christchurch**. Or for the beer drinkers you love best how about a **bottle of organic beer** – **Founders in Nelson** (all their beer is organic) and **Emersons in Dunedin** (their Pilsener is organic) are both good options. And then there are the chocolate lovers we love – **Trade Aid** has a fantastic organic, fair trade dairy or dark chocolate range and **Wanaka Chocolate** (available from health food and organic shops) is also a yummy treat.

Or if food and drink doesn't do it for your beloved you could, on their behalf, **sponsor a dolphin from WWF**, or a cow, schoolbooks or many other options from **Oxfam Unwrapped**. Shed some light on their life by giving them an **eco light bulb** or help them achieve a carbon neutral status by giving them some **tree seedlings or bigger trees to plant**. The options for a sustainable Christmas are endless....