



# THE ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTITIONER

No. 1

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## A NEW NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the first edition of *The Environmental Practitioner*, the new newsletter for the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand.

The Institute has produced a newsletter in some form as a service to members throughout most of its history. The most recent printed newsletter, which was produced in association with Hallmark Editions, lapsed in 2003, due to the lack of an editor and of editorial support within the Central Office. Re-establishing a regular newsletter was delayed because of other financial priorities, although e-mail news bulletins have been used for communicating with members.

Following a survey of members' preferences in 2005 (see page 8), the Council decided to establish a new newsletter, but to produce it primarily in electronic format, as favoured by a large majority of survey respondents. The main advantages of an electronic format include:

- lower production and distribution costs;
- similar and faster production process;
- potential saving in resources (e.g. paper, depending on how many recipients print their own hard copies); and
- greater production flexibility (e.g. there is not a set number of pages).

The disadvantages are the lack of a professionally printed document, and the need for separate arrangements for distribution to those members who do not have suitable internet access.

*The Environmental Practitioner* will differ from the previous newsletter in focusing predominantly on internal Institute matters, rather than attempting to provide extensive coverage of environmental news in Australia and New Zealand. There are several other electronic newsletters which address the latter task more effectively than could be done using Institute resources. On the other hand, having a stronger Institute focus will provide more opportunities for members to air their own views and contribute to the development of the profession within the Institute.

The size and scope of this newsletter will depend largely on the material contributed by members. Articles, news, notes, letters and other items are welcome. Advice for contributors is included on page 9. Please take the opportunity to use the newsletter as you see fit to enhance your professional development.

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## GETTING INVOLVED AND GETTING VALUE

To some members of the Institute, it seems that membership means little more than a postnominal which looks good on a CV and the receipt of occasional publications (printed or electronic) which may or may not contain information relevant to one's professional interests. This is a rather narrow perspective on the value of the Institute to its members.

One of the greatest benefits that a professional body can offer its members is the opportunity to interact with others working in the profession. In the case of the Institute, this is most readily achieved for most members through participation in locally organised seminars and other functions, although the tyranny of distance can be a limitation for those living in remote areas where member numbers are low.

Even in the capital cities, the proportion of members attending local seminars is generally low, perhaps reflecting the difficulties of catering for a membership of such diverse interests (see article on page 4). A well-rounded professional, however, can benefit from exposure to information outside one's field, and there is also the possibility of informal networking before and after the presentation.

Networking opportunities are a feature of the major Institute conferences, held about every 18 months and, for many participants, are the most valuable element of these conferences. Members are invited also to use these conferences for making their own presentations and receiving feedback. While again the diverse membership may make it difficult to cater for everyone's interests in the one conference, the theme of this year's conference in Adelaide, *Environmental Practice*, is particularly broad (see page 19).

Members can get involved also through the printed word, either through contributing to the *Australasian Journal of Environmental Management*, or through the less formal avenue of this newsletter. The revitalised website is also being developed to promote member interaction (see page 6).

If you really want to get involved with the Institute, perhaps you may be interested in joining one of the Institute's many committees or working groups. All Divisions have a local committee, normally elected about August each year, which welcomes new committee members. At the



Institute level, there are several Standing Committees, dealing respectively with External Relations, Policy and Practice, Membership Promotion, Professional Development and the Student Initiative, as well as the Journal Editorial Committee and the Certification Board.

If you don't want to be tied to a regular commitment, the Journal Editors are seeking reviewers of papers on an occasional basis from specialists in a wide range of

environmental fields (see page 15). The Institute is also approached from time to time to provide suitably skilled representatives on external committees, who are responsible for assisting these committees and informing the Council and the membership of the committees' activities as appropriate.

Another important area where many members can contribute is through the mentoring scheme to assist the professional development of students and young professionals. This scheme was set up within the Central Office several years ago, but has now been decentralised to the Divisions (e.g. see NSW Division news on page 16).

Those members who really want to immerse themselves in the affairs of the Institute eventually find their way onto the Council, either as Divisional Councillors or as elected members of the Executive. Council positions, particularly those of the Executive, can be very demanding on one's time, which may explain why such positions are seldom contested. On the other hand, Council work can also be very rewarding in terms of achievements and a strong level of interest in working on the Council indicates a healthy and vibrant organisation.

It is up to each member to decide what he or she wants from the Institute. If you really want to use the Institute effectively for your own professional development, I would encourage you to get involved and to get the best value from your membership.

David Hogg  
Editor

Opinions expressed in this newsletter reflect the views of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand Inc. unless specifically stated.



# PRESIDENT'S VISION FOR THE EIANZ

## Bill Haylock

In contemplating the role as President of the Institute and our young profession, an overriding matter comes to mind about which I have felt passionate for some time. The environmental profession operates almost entirely unregulated.

Environmental management and subsequent environmental regulations and approvals have mushroomed over the past 10 years. Unfortunately along with this explosion have come some poor practices in environmental management. Numerous government departments throughout Australia and New Zealand are seeing the results of such poor practices. In many cases no-one is accountable for the quality or veracity of statements placed in approval documents. Poorly produced documents consume far too much of our regulators' time than should be the case. Documents are being produced by unqualified, unethical and incompetent persons. Such practices are inefficient and not sustainable.

As President of a peak body, it is my principal objective to advance and promote ethical and competent practice among all environmental practitioners in Australia and New Zealand. Hence, I feel that the Institute must be the driving force behind the establishment of a certification process to achieve sound standards and policies, accountability and the development and dissemination of best practice.

I wish to evolve an Institute to which all current and future members are proud to belong and on which the community can rely on to provide the very best advice. It is also my desire that this process will result in a significant increase in membership.

In brief, I recognise that the greater the competency of the professional practitioner, the better and more sustainable are the environmental outcomes on the ground. Institute members have an opportunity right now to provide input to the certification process and to contribute to the development and delivery of the very best in ethical, accountable and competent professional practice.

As a long term goal I see the Institute as part of a worldwide alliance or group of environmental professional bodies advocating the best in ethical, accountable and competent professional practice. A principal objective of this group would be to help deliver capacity building in developing countries and regions by sharing our professional experiences and knowledge.

My objectives for the Institute are:



- To increase membership services – *provide for the professional needs of the members and supply high quality information and publications, high quality and relevant professional development, networking and promotional opportunities, and create new Special Interest Sections.*
- To broaden the income of the Institute – *provide for business development of new products and services and ensure effective and efficient utilisation of current resources.*
- To improve awareness of the Institute – *develop key messages, identify major issues for advocacy and make submissions.*
- To broaden the Certification Scheme – *promote the Scheme and review the need for other types of certification.*
- To create an international alliance of professional environmental bodies – *encourage similar professional bodies throughout the world to form an international alliance.*
- To increase the membership base – *build the Institute's membership numbers.*

The Institute is operated and managed by a very small staff. In general the objectives and strategies of the Institute are predominantly implemented by volunteers. There are many tasks for us all to undertake and, the more members who volunteer to help, the stronger the Institute will become. With a greater presence, the Institute is more likely to contribute to good environmental practice and effective and efficient sustainable outcomes.

I read these words the other day, which were quoted in an article following the death of the prominent civil rights activist Vivian Jones. I think that they help define us as a not-for-profit professional body which has an enormous potential to contribute to society:

*There will come a day in your life when you must act for others – your family, perhaps your community – you must be ready. What you have done to reach this milestone today is part of that preparation. So take from all the books you have read, all the lessons you have learned, the certain knowledge that one day, any day, you must be bold, have courage, and walk through a door that leads to opportunity for others.* Vivian Malone Jones, University of Alabama, 2000.

Finally, I wish to confirm that I am committed to helping the Institute to become the peak professional body that I believe it should and can be, and to subsequently help to deliver better environmentally sustainable outcomes.



# WHO IS THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROFESSION?

**David Hogg**

The Environment Institute of Australia\* was established in 1987 to represent the interests of the environmental profession, which emerged as a recognisable entity during the 1970s in the wake of widespread political and legislative acknowledgement of environmental issues. In reality, elements of the profession began much earlier, for example, in relation to soil conservation, sewage treatment and sustainable forestry, but these had their origins within other professions and were not concerned with the environment in a holistic sense.

The outstanding characteristic of the environmental profession which distinguishes it from most other professions is the diverse range of backgrounds of its members. While some members have entered the profession through specific environmental training, a large proportion have found their way there through experience developed within a more traditional profession, such as science, town planning, law, engineering or architecture. Some of these professions are now developing their own environmental specialities on a formal basis.

Because it is so widely encompassing, there is a enormous number of professionals who could be served by the EIANZ, i.e. are potential members of the organisation. Most of these, however, also belong to another professional organisation which is more directly aligned with their original training and has a more clearly defined identity.

In terms of their professional background and training, most environmental practitioners fall into one of the following three groups:

1. Persons who have been specifically trained as environmental practitioners.
2. Persons who have been trained as a practitioner in another profession (e.g. engineering, town planning, law) but have developed their professional skills particularly within the environment area.
3. Persons who have been trained within specific environmental sciences and have developed and applied their scientific knowledge as practitioners.

The first of these groups forms the backbone of the Institute and is the primary reason why the Institute was formed. These people do not fit readily into any other profession, or at least not one which is geared to professional practice.

Those people in the second group invariably have a professional home within another institute, to which they commonly ascribe their primary affiliations. However, that institute may not satisfy their environmental needs, at least in a broad sense, hence they have a need to belong to the EIANZ, if only as their secondary affiliation.

Those people in the third group are generally served by a scientific society, but not necessarily one which caters for their practitioner needs or enables them to see their specialist disciplines in a broad environmental context. The EIANZ fulfils these roles.

## Functional Areas

There is a further dimension within the environmental profession which cuts across people's professional background as described. This is common to many professions and is described in EIANZ By-law No. 1 as 'functional areas'. These include the following:

- policy;
- legislation;
- planning, design and assessment;
- development and implementation;
- operation and management;
- regulation and enforcement;
- auditing;
- monitoring and reporting;
- applied research;
- education.

Most practitioners tend to be active on a regular basis in only one or two of these functional areas and may have little or no practical experience in most of the others.

Particularly in the planning, design and development areas, the environmental practitioner tends to work as a member of a multi-disciplinary team, providing advice which is used by other planning and design professionals (e.g. engineers, architects).

## General Practitioners and Specialists

The environment profession includes both general practitioners and specialists. The general practitioners have broad experience across a wide

\* The Institute was expanded to include New Zealand in 2002.



range of environmental areas which equips them for dealing with the more straightforward projects but may need to call on specialists to provide expert advice as required (e.g. archaeology, fauna surveys, acoustics). The general practitioner has a key role in co-ordinating and evaluating specialist advice, and in interpreting this in a planning and design context.

The EIANZ Code of Ethics (point 5) specifically identifies a requirement for its members to recognise the need to seek specialist assistance in areas where the member has limited experience. This is similar to the relationship between general practitioners and specialists in the practice of medicine.

### Employment Situations

A relatively high proportion of Institute Members are consultants, either self-employed in sole practice, running small consulting firms, or working for larger firms. Such people probably have the greatest professional needs for Institute support and tend to be heavily represented in its operation, particularly at the national level.

There are, however, also many very active members working in government, academia and the corporate sector who may have different views of the profession, and different expectations of the Institute. Other members work for non-government organisations or are retired, but retain an ongoing interest in the environment from a professional perspective.

### Implications for Institute Development

The diverse nature of the environmental profession creates a major challenge for the Institute in providing programs and publications which are likely to have wide appeal amongst its membership. This has obvious implications for the planning of conferences and local seminar programs, and for maintaining its journal as a publication of widespread relevance.

Many members view the environmental profession from their own perspectives, without necessarily appreciating its full extent. It is even more difficult to appreciate the breadth of the profession from an external perspective. This is undoubtedly a factor that is currently preventing the insurance industry from understanding professional indemnity risks associated with different environmental consulting practices. Even within more closely aligned professions, such as town planning or engineering, one often encounters a limited appreciation of the scope of the environmental profession. Among the wider community, the perception is likely to be even

more jaundiced, with many people not appreciating the difference between a professional environmental practitioner and a community-based 'greenie'.

For the environmental profession to mature to the point of being widely appreciated, there is much to be done by the Institute and its members in educating the wider community as to the profession's diverse roles and purposes.

To end on a positive note, the wide diversity of the profession means that there is a huge number of potential members in the Australian and New Zealand workforces. Take almost any government environment department and you will find that only a small percentage of its employees engaged on what could be described as 'professional' work in an environmental context are Institute members. Look at the town planning, engineering, architecture and landscape architecture professions, which all have a significant environmental focus, and ask how many of these practitioners are sufficiently committed to environmental ideals to join a professional organisation that addresses the environment from a comprehensive perspective. The same question can be asked within numerous specialist environmental disciplines (e.g. air, water, energy, ecology, cultural heritage).

The diversity of the environmental profession generates two major opportunities from an EIANZ perspective. One is in recruiting new members — a figure of 10,000 members has been suggested as a reasonable target and would still be well below the total number of persons in Australia and New Zealand who could classify themselves as environmental practitioners. The other is in taking a lead role in co-ordinating the efforts of all those professional institutes and associations which represent different aspects of the environmental profession. This was initiated at the 1997 EIA Conference in Melbourne through a Professional Associations Roundtable but has not advanced significantly since then due to limited resources.

Of the large number of Australians and New Zealanders working in a professional capacity in an environment-related field, many may never feel the need to join the Institute. As the Institute's profile grows, however, with greater overlap and interaction with other professional bodies, its influence in achieving its objectives throughout the wider environmental profession is likely to grow.



# WEBSITE ON A SHOE-STRING

Suzanne Little

Vice President (Australia)

When a few of us at EIANZ innocently accepted the task of 'reviewing' the Institute's website in October 2004, we did not know what we were getting into. We have learnt a lot about cyber world (spending more time there than bargained for) and have since *gone live* with a brand new website.

First, it took five months to discover that our old website had been reworked so many times that we had to start again. Danielle Bolton (SEQ Division) conducted an audit which made the Institute realise that we had to go back to the drawing board. At the Council Meeting held in April 2005, in Christchurch, the Institute decided *to re-establish website administration in the Central Office. Council responsibility for overseeing # 1.6 (website) was allocated to Sue Little (Councillor for NSW).*

After we arrived home from the New Zealand Conference, the basic task was to find a website consultant to design a website for our needs. It did not take us long to realise that if we wanted to avoid the problems of the past, we could not rely on a single and costly Webmaster. We needed a self-managed site and wrote a specification accordingly. Some of the *spec* was a wish list that was way beyond the EIANZ budget but, after receiving three quotes, the EIANZ engaged Fiona McLennan from Speculate in NSW. We proceeded with a phased approach on a shoe-string budget.

## Phase #1 started in July 2005

The Institute agreed to a first phase which included:

- a new design for a website that we could run ourselves;
- a nice banner for the homepage;
- seven new modules to revamp the site; and
- technical website maintenance for one year.

We had a scoping meeting with Fiona (from Speculate) and reviewed her work-in-progress throughout July, August and September 2005. Responsible for a small business herself, Fiona tailored the new website to our needs (and budget) as a not-for-profit, members' organisation. She designed a Content Management System so the website could be administered in-house by computer-savvy volunteers.

After much e-mail traffic we accumulated about a dozen helpers willing to be web-editors. Using a training manual we taught ourselves 'behind the

scenes stuff' over several weeks. Eventually the web-editors were capable of putting content on a Division web page and dates in the Calendar.

The revamped website *went live* in the last week of September 2005. After the next social event the NSW web-editor uploaded photos onto the NSW Division web page. Lorraine Cairnes put lots of smiling faces from various networking events on the NSW web page, after carefully editing out any professional hands holding alcoholic drinks.

Then we discovered cartoons. We had fun putting our cynical sense of humour on the homepage every week accompanied with a little news article. We told you about Simon Molesworth standing down after a decade at the helm, the intake for the Certificate of Environment Practice and the call for papers for the Adelaide conference. Being writers of original material ourselves, we were aware of the importance of copyright, so sent a payment to the American cartoonist for a year's worth of amusement for our website.

It became a wee bit technical when our **Employment / Jobs** web page became hyperlinked to our employment agent, JDA. This shows job vacancies online and can receive CVs into a database for members looking for jobs. Since we allowed space for other job advertisements and direct links to other recruitment agencies we checked to make sure all links were working correctly. When our 'tests' resulted in a torrent of follow-up calls to see if someone wanted a job, we politely explained that we were just voluntary web-editors doing quality assurance. I think the recruiters thought we were nuts.

But the nuttiest thing on the website is **Take a breather**. Here we have a poll for word nerds to fantasise about the definition of words and make a selection. So far, members have voted on definitions for *Certain* and *Constant*. The current poll is on *Terrific*. Each *Word nerd* poll stays current for about a month and then we give you a poll-driven, democratic answer, plus commentary on the status of the Australian language.

## Phase #2 started in January 2006

After refreshing our coffers with your membership fees (thank you) we embarked on Phase #2:

- Executive and Council tabs
- Members Only tab
- Payment gateway



This has been more ambitious than Phase #1 because it provides online, secure storage for administrative documents where Councillors and Executive officers can download EIANZ discussion papers. The Council tab and Executive tab are both password protected and provide a simple *chat room* for Councillors to discuss business out-of-session and items before monthly meetings. It is a vast improvement. The previous arrangement was a rolling snowball of e-mails – with attachments of various and superseded versions of documents, which avalanched into a tangled e-mail tag between about twenty people.

Phase #2 is not complete yet. An important prerequisite that is taking time to think through is whether to have an online or offline database for membership details. Once resolved we will be able to commence a password protected area for members only. Website access will require two identifiers that are known only to the member, but not easily known to a hacker.

A **Members Only** tab will enable you to update your own contact details. This has proved necessary because our members move about a lot. EIANZ members have a churn of 10 percent change in e-mail address per month. A password protected area will let you leave your 'calling card' so we can find you again.

Eventually this feature will enable us to install a secure, payment gateway for you to pay renewals online. The difference from the existing method (cheque in the post) will be replacement of paperwork with electronic reconciliation. Presumably it will be easier for you because you can act on impulse – yet effectively. For example, new members can pay their membership in time to get a discount for the next networking event. Existing members who pay renewals promptly can claim their tax deduction quickly. Another benefit is that online payment will streamline Central Office by reducing manual handling and avoiding duplication of tasks.

Constructing this website has been a steep learning curve for us and we have enjoyed it, in a curious sort of way. It is possible to spend a lot of time setting things up, but a website is a very powerful communication asset for an organisation with a membership over two nations and several time zones. The web-editors who update the website on behalf of our members are: Barbara Radcliffe (SA); Brad Smith (Tasmania); Danielle Bolton (SEQ); David Hogg (Newsletter Editor); Denise Sheard (Central Office); Helen Campbell (Victoria); Lachlan Wilkinson (ACT); Lorraine Cairnes (NSW); Samantha Rayner (SA); Sarah Pritchett (NZ); Steve Wilke (WA); Stuart Reeh (Secretary) and yours truly, Suzanne Little.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY OF ENVIRONMENTAL BEST PRACTICES

One of the initiatives of the Policy and Practice Standing Committee for 2005-06 is the preparation of a bibliography of material on environmental best practices for application in Australia and New Zealand. This is seen as a living document which will summarise material, such as best practice manuals and relevant journal articles, that is available through other sources, under appropriate headings which members can access when they have a need. It is envisaged that the bibliography will be available through the members-only page of the website and/ or on CD-ROM.

The project is still in the early stages but it is envisaged that material could be categorised according to types of development projects (e.g. roads, urban development, ski resort development), environmental topics (e.g. sediment and erosion control, acid sulfate soils) or geographical areas (e.g. coastal areas, alpine areas). This structure is likely to evolve as the project progresses.

The project is being co-ordinated on behalf of the PPSC by David Hogg, who is seeking the support of

other members who would be interested in:

- (a) co-ordinating the work on any of the categories; or
- (b) contributing information about any best practice publications with which they are familiar. (A proforma for the latter task will be developed shortly).

If you would like to contribute in either of these capacities please contact David Hogg at [dhpl@bigpond.com](mailto:dhpl@bigpond.com) or 02 - 6251 3885.

The target for producing the first edition of the bibliography is the Adelaide conference in September 2006. This will contain as much information as can be compiled within that timeframe. It is anticipated that the bibliography will be progressively updated as further information becomes available.

**Richard Hoy**  
Chair, Policy and Practice Standing Committee



# NEWSLETTER SURVEY RESULTS

## David Hogg

During mid 2005, a mail survey was undertaken to assess members' interest in a regular Institute newsletter. This survey covered both the existing e-mail news bulletin and a more substantial quarterly newsletter in either printed or electronic form.

The response to the survey was disappointing, particularly considering that a survey of members' interests and priorities undertaken in 2003 placed a newsletter at the top of the list of important benefits of membership. Only 98 responses were received, compared with 379 responses for a similar type of survey undertaken for the Journal in 1997. The results were nevertheless useful in providing information to the Council in its subsequent decisions relating to the newsletter.

### Existing E-mail News Bulletin

Of the 98 respondents, 77 had been receiving the e-mail bulletin. Of those who did not, only one did not have access to an e-mail, and a further eight had not advised the Central Office of their addresses. There were ten respondents who indicated that the Central Office had been advised of their e-mail addresses, but were not receiving the bulletin. 95 out of 97 respondents indicated that they could receive e-mail communications from the Institute.

Preferences for the format of the e-mail bulletin varied widely, with 34 respondents favouring a long e-mail message (the existing format), 36 preferring an e-mail attachment (PDF or Word), and 26 preferring to access the newsletter via the EIANZ website, with a brief e-mail reminder. Nobody was interested in accessing the website without e-mail notification.

The comments on the e-mail news bulletin were generally favourable. While a few comments indicated that readers would like to see a more detailed and comprehensive newsletter, these were outweighed by the number supporting the current brief format, or something even shorter.

### Potential Future Quarterly Newsletter

In terms of membership benefits, 34 respondents saw a substantial quarterly newsletter (printed or electronic) as very important, 45 as fairly important and 18 as not important. Of the potential formats suggested, 24 preferred a printed newsletter and 72 preferred a website-

based newsletter. Of the latter, all except one would prefer e-mail notification of its availability, as opposed to having to check the website for themselves.

The reasons for supporting a website based newsletter included:

- easier and quicker to read;
- reduced paper use;
- reduced printing and postage costs;
- already received too much mail;
- printing, if required, can be restricted to selected pages.

The reasons for supporting a printed newsletter included:

- ability to read it at a convenient time away from a computer;
- prefer hard copy for filing;
- receive too many e-mails;
- avoid the need to print from a computer.

If the newsletter were placed on the website, 95 out of 97 respondents would be able to access it conveniently. 65 would read it on the screen, 17 would print it out and read it later and 16 would not read it at all.

### Discussion

The results of the survey should be interpreted with caution because of the low response rate which may be biased towards members who have an interest in a newsletter. Subject to this qualification, the results of the survey are perhaps not surprising and confirm the view that the majority of professional people are happy to be served by electronic communications but there is still a significant component (about 25 percent) who prefer conventional printed material, at least for publications that they value. Of the 18 respondents who considered a newsletter to be not important as a membership benefit, none of these preferred a printed newsletter. Of the 34 who considered a newsletter to be very important, 10 (or 29 percent) preferred a printed newsletter, a slightly higher proportion than for the total sample.

While the responses indicated that almost all members are in a position to receive electronic

\* Some questions were not answered by all respondents, hence the totals do not always add up to 98.



communications, in practice the proportion is reduced due to technical problems with e-mails, unnotified changes in e-mail address, and blocking of private e-mails by employers. Despite these limitations, it appears that an electronic newsletter is still the preferred form of communication for the majority of members. It is important, however, that members who do not have convenient e-mail access are not disadvantaged as a result.

### Resulting Decisions

Based in part on the results of the survey, the Council has taken the following decisions:

1. To maintain the e-mail news bulletin as the primary medium for informing members of coming events, deadlines and other matters requiring regular notification, with nominally monthly

publication at this stage, preferably at the beginning of the month.

2. To investigate further the optimum electronic format for the news bulletin, which should continue to be sent as a long e-mail message until this is resolved.
3. To establish a quarterly newsletter from the beginning of 2006 which would be available to members electronically through the website.
4. To distribute hard copies of the quarterly newsletter to any members who request it, such copies being good quality, black and white photocopies as a minimum standard. This service is intended primarily for the small number of members who do not have internet access.

## PROFESSIONAL INDEMNITY INSURANCE UPDATE

A major concern of many members working as self-employed consultants is obtaining professional indemnity insurance which provides adequate cover at a reasonable price. An EIANZ working group headed by Stephen Jenkins has been negotiating with several Australian brokers since late 2004 with a view to obtaining an Institute-backed scheme which would:

- provide all such consultants with the extent of coverage that they need, without exclusions such as those relating to contaminated land or pollution, which exist in some policies;
- relate premiums to the level of risk, given that some consultants work in relatively low-risk areas; and
- achieve savings on premiums by having multiple businesses covered through the one scheme.

Despite early optimism, this task is proving more difficult than anticipated. To date, no broker has been able to deliver a proposal supported by the underwriters which satisfies all of the criteria set down by the working group. Negotiations with brokers are continuing but, in the meantime, members need to be responsible for arranging their own PI insurance.

There are several brokers active in this area in Australia. The names of some of these can be obtained by contacting the EIANZ Central Office. It appears that different brokers can obtain the best deal for different work situations, so members may wish to shop around.

Members will be advised as soon as an acceptable Institute-backed scheme has been negotiated to the satisfaction of the working group and the Council.

### ADVICE FOR CONTRIBUTORS

All members are invited to contribute material to *The Environmental Practitioner*. Contributions may include:

- short articles (up to 2 pages or 130 words) on topics of interest to other members;
- news items of members' achievements (e.g. senior appointments, awards);
- letters to the Editor;
- brief notes on other items of general interest;
- photographs of EIANZ functions; and
- requests for advice or assistance.

Material should be sent by e-mail as Word attachments. Please proofread carefully before sending. Photographs should be sent as a jpeg file or an alternative format suitable for editing.

The e-mail address for newsletter contributions is [dhpl@bigpond.com](mailto:dhpl@bigpond.com).

Deadline for next issue (May): 21 April



## MEET THE COUNCIL.....

This page contains a brief introduction to some of the members of the EIANZ Council. The remaining members will be introduced in coming issues of the newsletter.



### **Bill Haylock, President**

Bill Haylock's environmental management career spans 27 years. He has a Bachelor of Science and a Graduate Diploma in Natural Resources.

Bill has worked in both the public and private sectors and has a variety of international experiences. He commenced his career in the late seventies as a soil conservation officer in the Northern Territory and was subsequently employed by Amax Mining in Colorado. He then spent four years as an environmental officer with the Queensland Mines Department.

For the past 20 years Bill has been the Managing Director of ELP-Muddy Boots, a specialised environmental management consultancy, serving the resources sector in assessment and approvals, development of management systems, auditing and environmental workforce training.

Bill was formerly Vice President (Australia) of the Institute and has also spent six years on the Executive of SEQ division, including three as President. Bill is a longstanding member of the Queensland Resource Council's environmental committee,

a member of AusIMM, former Chair of the environment committee of the UDIA and a member of Environment Business Australia.

He was active in helping to promote and develop the scheme for Certification of Environmental Practitioners (CEnvP).

Bill actively pursues community based interests outside of his professional roles. He has had a lifetime involvement with the Australian Surf Life Saving Association where he has been involved in coaching and training at the elite level.

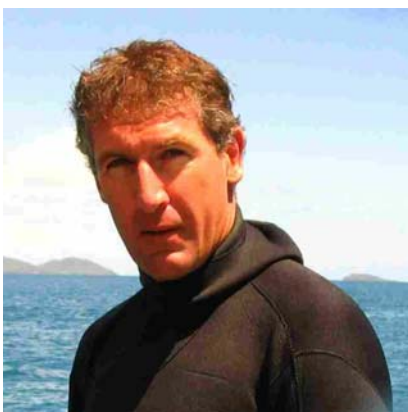
### **Suzanne Little, Vice President (Australia)**

Sue is incoming Vice President, replacing Bill Haylock. Her particular role is to support governance in our Institute by supervising the Central Office in Melbourne. Previously Sue was NSW Councillor, representing the division with the largest membership. In 2005 she guided the revamp of the EIANZ website to be more functional for members.

Sue is a member of the Board of the Catchment Management Authority for Metropolitan Sydney which is responsible for overseeing the regional approach to natural resources in Australia's global city. For the 2000 Olympic Games she helped the NSW State Government put sustainability firmly on the agenda by showcasing sustainable design in all Olympic venues, as the Environment Director of the Olympic Coordination Authority. Previously she held managerial roles in three utilities – gas (AGL); telecommunications (Vodafone); and power (Electricity Commission of NSW).

With experience as a consultant in two global environmental consultancies (CMPS&F and Maunsell), Sue helps to bring the corporate sector's perspective about commerciality into recognition of good environmental practice, as required by the Certificate of Environmental Practice. Sue is a Panel Member for the CEnvP and regularly interviews fellow practitioners to accept them into the environment profession at the level of ethics and experience required by the EIANZ.

Currently, Sue presents conference papers – representing her multiple appointments – and is a lead environmental auditor, conducting certification audits for organisations to achieve the Management Standard, ISO 14001.



### **Dr Adam Smith, FNQ Councillor**

Dr Adam Smith is the Councillor for Far North Queensland division. Adam is a Fellow and CEnvP of EIANZ. He studied a BSc (Hons) and PhD at UNSW and an MBA at UQ. He has worked as a scientist, environmental consultant and manager in state and federal government and currently works as Manager (Environmental Impact Management) for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority. Adam is involved in EIANZ as he is interested in increasing the environmental knowledge of students and the professional standing of environmental practitioners in Queensland.





### **Emeritus Associate Professor Peter Skelton, Vice President (New Zealand)**

I am a lawyer by qualification with an LLB degree from Auckland University and nearly 20 years in practice. For much of that time I was a litigation lawyer specialising in personal injuries and contract law cases but following the introduction of the accident compensation scheme in New Zealand I turned to planning and resource management cases. From 1978-2000 I was a Judge in the Environment Court. I retired from the Court in 2000 and went to Lincoln University to teach resource management law and some aspects of professional practice. Until the end of 2005 I was the Associate Professor of Resource Management Law in the Environmental, Society, and Design Division of the University. I have now retired from that position and hold an honorary position as an Emeritus Associate Professor. Currently, in addition to a small amount of professional skills teaching and some research work at the University, I am engaged from time to time as a consultant by both Local and Central Government. In 2001 I was made

a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit for my contribution to environmental law.

In 2001 my colleague, Professor Ian Spellerberg, 'encouraged' me to become involved in establishing a professional home for New Zealand environmental practitioners. In company with him and others I helped found the EIANZ which was established in 2002. I have held the office of Vice President (New Zealand) since then and I am an ex officio member of the Executive Committee of the New Zealand Chapter of the Institute.

I am married with two adult married children both of whom are lawyers. My interests include walking, golf, grandchildren and reading when time permits.

### **Stuart Reeh, Secretary**

I discovered the Institute in the late '90s and, being the only group that seemed to fit with both my background and my desire for access to a broad range of topics, promptly joined.

I took part in the Victorian Division Committee for several years, and took up roles as Councillor and Treasurer for the Tasmanian Division after moving south (I remain Treasurer but have recently passed on the Councillor's hat). I spent the past decade learning what it's like to work in a variety of sectors within our profession, including the non-profit sector (ACF and ICLEI), state government (EPA Victoria), local government (City of Port Phillip), consulting (Meinhardt Infrastructure and Environment) and sub-contracting. I have a Bachelor of Social Science in Socio-Environmental Assessment and Policy and a Postgraduate Diploma in Environmental Studies. I also spent a rewarding year as an elected director of the Moreland Energy Foundation, an innovative not-for-profit organisation. After a few years working on air quality, noise, waste and water with the Tasmanian Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment I will soon be returning to Melbourne to lead the Sustainability Group at Meinhardt Infrastructure and Environment.



### **Dr David Hogg, Newsletter Editor**

David Hogg has been working as an environmental practitioner based in Canberra since 1973, having abandoned a previous career in biochemical research and undertaken further studies to become one of Australia's first graduates from a specialist environmental studies course. After establishing and running the Environment Section of the former National Capital Development Commission for eight years, he formed his own consulting firm, working predominantly in environmental planning and assessment, as well as in recreation planning and sports development.

His current work is based predominantly in the Canberra area and in the New South Wales ski fields. As he is gradually winding back his consultancy interests with a view to future retirement, he is becoming increasingly involved in helping others to develop their environmental skills through mentoring and publications.

He is a foundation member of the Institute and has been active on the ACT Division Committee between 1989 and 1997, and on the Council since 1996, including eight years as Secretary.

His main interest outside work is orienteering, a sport which he has been instrumental in developing in Australia and the Asia-Pacific region over the past 35 years, and which fits comfortably with many of his professional activities. He is a member of the International Orienteering Federation's Environment Commission.



# ARE YOU IN THE RIGHT MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY?

David Hogg, former EIANZ Secretary

The EIANZ has four membership categories, which are intended to recognise different levels of competence and achievement within the environmental profession. These categories are Fellow, Member, Associate Member and Student. During my eight years as Institute Secretary, which included dealing with a wide range of membership matters, I felt that some members were not seeking the membership status for which they were eligible, possibly due to not understanding the implications of the various membership categories.

The Member category is the predominant category of membership, and is the basic professional standing recognised by the Institute. It caters for those with appropriate environmental qualifications and a minimum of two years professional environmental experience (or alternatively five years of experience without relevant qualifications). Because of the diversity of the environmental profession, it is sometimes difficult to interpret the term 'environmental' in relation to qualifications or experience, but it is Council policy to adopt an inclusive approach and give applicants the benefit of doubt in marginal cases. It is uncommon for applications for the 'Member' category to be rejected by the Membership Review Committee. Applications may be rejected, however, in situations where the information provided by the applicant does not demonstrate that he or she has two years of professional experience since graduation, or that the experience gained is 'hands on' within the environmental profession, as opposed to just supervising environmental staff without having personal involvement (past or present) in environmental work.

An applicant who is not accepted as a Member will normally be offered the status of **Associate Member**. This category is effectively open to anyone with a genuine interest in the environment profession, irrespective of qualifications or experience, and is primarily intended for new graduates entering the environmental workforce. The main distinction between Member and Associate Member is that a Member has professional status and can use the postnominal, MEIANZ, while no such status or postnominal comes with the Associate Member position, a point which discerning employers would appreciate. If you have joined the Institute in order to gain professional recognition, then it is important to ensure that you achieve Member status as soon as you are eligible.

A Member who seeks higher status can be nominated as a **Fellow**. The requirements for Fellow membership are significantly more than stringent than those for a Member, and are reviewed more critically, through an exclusive rather than an inclusive approach. The criteria for fellowship include the following:

- *Has substantially occupied a senior position of influence in the environmental profession for a period of at least ten years and acquired a high level of general environmental knowledge.*
- *Be a good character and personal repute and have established a professional reputation, with high ethical and moral standards, and be held in high esteem within the environmental profession and associated professions.*

Simply being in the profession for ten years is **not** an automatic qualification for fellowship.

Persons who may qualify as a Fellow include:

- a consultant who has established or led an environmental consulting firm and is well regarded within the profession;
- a senior public servant with a key role in developing environmental policy or legislation;
- a leading environmental research scientist;
- an academic who has played a key role in developing and teaching environmental studies courses;
- a leading author of professional environmental publications; or
- a senior employee within a private company or government enterprise who has been influential in improving the environmental performance of that organisation over an extended period.

These examples are not formal guidelines for Fellow membership, but reflect the attributes of many of the Fellows within the Institute.

There are many Members who stand out as obvious candidates for fellowship, but who have not taken the trouble to seek nomination. Members who feel they may be eligible and would benefit from Fellow status are encouraged to seek nomination. While the membership fees are higher, these may be offset by financial benefits such as reduced CEnvP fees or lower professional indemnity insurance premiums.

At the opposite end of the scale is **Student**



membership, which is designed to encourage environmental students into the Institute at a low cost and with a minimum of processing. All Student Member applications are accepted without the need for review.

There is also special provision for retired Members and Fellows. Originally, retired Members reverted to the status of Associate, but this was changed a few years ago so that Members and Fellows who retired could retain the postnominal status and full voting rights but pay only Associate rates. 'Retired' in this sense means that the person is no longer engaged in or actively seeking regular paid work.

Further details about membership, including upgrades, is available on the website or through the Central Office. It is in all members' interests to pursue the membership category that best suits their professional needs.

## CERTIFICATION vs MEMBERSHIP

Certification (CEnvP) is distinct from membership in that it involves additional criteria which are not addressed in the Member or Fellow application process. While membership provides access to a variety of services in keeping with the primary purposes of the Institute, certification builds upon the Code of Ethics and extends such principles beyond Institute membership into the wider profession. It is not necessary to be an Institute member to seek certification, although there are financial benefits for members.

In providing an additional level of recognition for ethical and competent practice, it is hoped that certification will yield benefits such as favourable differentiation for professional indemnity insurance and greater formal recognition for professional activities.

In terms of length of experience, the minimum requirement for certification falls between those for Member and Fellow, although the certification assessment process is more demanding in many ways than a fellowship application. Many more people are likely to be eligible for certification than for fellowship. In 2005, 105 practitioners achieved certification, more than twice the total number of Fellows in the Institute.

Further information about certification is available from the certification website, [www.cenvp.org](http://www.cenvp.org).

## IANZ DIRECTORY

### COUNCIL

#### Executive

President: Bill Haylock  
Vice President - Australia: Sue Little  
Vice President - New Zealand: Assoc. Prof. Peter Skelton CNZM  
Secretary: Stuart Reeh  
Treasurer: Geoff Parr-Smith  
Newsletter Editor: Dr David Hogg  
Immediate Past President: Simon Molesworth AM QC

#### Divisional Councillors

ACT: Lachlan Wilkinson  
Far North Queensland: Dr Adam Smith  
New South Wales: Desiree Lammerts  
New Zealand: Leo Fietje  
Northern Territory: Vacant (Bill Low and Noel Preece acting)  
South Australia: Dr Barbara Radcliffe  
South East Queensland: Simon Cavendish  
Tasmania: Axel von Krussienterna  
Victoria: Nigel Murphy  
Western Australia: Steve Wilke

#### STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

External Relations Committee: John Ashe  
Policy and Practice Committee: Richard Hoy  
Journal Editorial Committee (Editors): Helen Ross, Grant Wardell-Johnston  
Membership Promotion Committee: Stuart Reeh  
Professional Development Committee: Aaron Harvey  
Certification Board: Nigel Murphy

#### CHAPTER AND DIVISION PRESIDENTS

Australian Capital Territory: Richard Sharp  
Far North Queensland: David Finney  
New South Wales: Anita Mitchell  
New Zealand: Ljubica Mamula-Stojnic  
Northern Territory: Vacant (Bill Low and Noel Preece acting)  
South Australia: Maria Furulis  
South East Queensland: Claire Gronow  
Tasmania: Dr John Todd  
Victoria: Michael Pitcher



# CERTIFICATION UPDATE

## CEnvP – 2005 in Review

Wendy Stegman

As 2004 brought the initiation and design of the CEnvP Program, this past year has brought program implementation, significant growth and increased profile. With two intakes successfully completed, the CEnvP Program accepted 105 new CEnvPs from seven Australian states and New Zealand. CEnvPs have primarily come from industry, consulting and government with women and men equally represented in the November intake.

The direct benefits of being certified are also becoming apparent with some organisations offering pay increases for certified professionals and government seeking to recognise the program in a manner consistent with other professional certification systems such as engineering, accountancy and financial management.

During this first year, the Program has not only successfully run application intakes; it has achieved wide recognition and established strong relationships with government, other professional certification programs and commercial organisations, thanks to the efforts of the Program Administrator, Registrar, Certification Board and Assessment Panels, among others.

CEnvP has also put itself out into the community, featuring in media releases and media articles as

well as launching its own website. Since its launch in April, the website now offers the community a searchable CEnvP Directory, a CPD Events Calendar, a CEnvP media centre, a bi-annual e-newsletter and downloadable resources.

The end of the year sadly brought the resignation of its first Registrar, Mark Nan Tie, as he moved to take the CEO position with EIANZ. Program Administrator, Wendy Stegman has replaced him as an Interim Acting Registrar in the New Year.

The New Year looks to bring another year of phenomenal growth and development to the Program, with goals of increasing CEnvP profile across the industry, increasing program uptake, further improving the application process, and offering additional resources to conferred CEnvPs.

For further information on the CEnvP Program or Applying for CEnvP status, e-mail Wendy Stegman, [info@cenvp.org](mailto:info@cenvp.org)

### Certified Environmental Practitioners 2005

The following persons have completed the requirements for certification during 2005:

Ian Ackland	NSW	Brett Donaldson	Vic	Russ Martin	NSW
Bruce Adcock	NSW	Paula Duke	Qld	Margaret Mazur	Vic
Shelley Anderson	Qld	Valerie Ee	WA	Paul McCabe	NSW
Timothy Anderson	Qld	Nicholas Graham-Higgs	NSW	Dr Justin Meleo	NSW
Dr Peter Bacon	NSW	Peter Gringinger	Vic	Anita Mitchell	NSW
Jim Barker	Qld	Anissa Groves	Vic	Todd Mitchell	Vic
Matthew Barrett	Qld	Rochelle Hardy	NZ	Raymond Mjadwesch	NSW
Ian Baxter	WA	Faye Hargreaves	NSW	Brendan Monckton	Qld
Phillip Blake	SA	Margaret Harris	Qld	Rick Morse	NSW
Ric Bland	Vic	John Haydon	Qld	Darren Murphy	WA
Alexandra Blood	SA	William Haylock	Qld	Nigel Murphy	Vic
Neil Boland	Qld	Wayne Hickey	Qld	Andrew Nagle	WA
John Braid	WA	Andrew Hill	Vic	Mark Nan Tie	Vic
Dr Michael Brennan	NSW	Dr David Hogg	ACT	Mark O'Brien	ACT
Patrice Brown	Qld	David Houghton	Qld	Shirley Olley	Qld
Dr Carolyn Brumley	Vic	Dominic Hudson	Qld	Paul Osmond	NSW
Pene Burns	NZ	Tiernan Humphrys	Vic	Dr Barbara Radcliffe	SA
Dr Andrew Butler	Qld	Samantha Jarvis	WA	Michelle Rhodes	WA
Dr Cecil Camilleri	SA	Stephen Jenkins	Vic	David Rogers	Vic
Alan Chenoweth	Qld	Sabrina Kerber	Vic	Rebecca Roper-Gee	NZ
William Chisholm	NZ	Sarah Kill	Qld	Andrew Roy	Vic
David Chubb	NSW	Philip Koloi	Qld	Boyd Sargeant	Qld
Dr Anne Marie Clements	NSW	Anthony Lane	Vic	Rob Savory	NZ
Edward Clerk	WA	Dr Hugh Lavery	Qld	Damon Scoffern	Vic
Dr Mark Connolly	Vic	Rochelle Lawson	ACT	Richard Sharp	ACT
Natasha Connolly	NSW	Alan Lee	Qld	Shelley Shepherd	WA
Andrew Costen	Qld	Dr Daniela Leonte	NSW	Lana Shoesmith	Qld
Francis Crome	Vic	Trevor Lloyd	Qld	Raymond Sloan	ACT
Colin Davies	NSW	James Lockley	Tas	Dr Adam Smith	Qld
Geoffrey Dews	Qld	Nicholas Mara	Vic	Dr Andrew Smith	NSW



Paul Smith  
Tamara Smith  
Prof Ian Spellerberg  
Dr Jeff Taylor  
Behrooz Tehrani  
Adrienne Thomas  
Robin Wagland

Qld  
WA  
NZ  
Vic  
NSW  
Vic  
Qld

Michelle Walker  
Larry White  
Dr Su Wildriver  
Tenaha Wilson  
Dr Ian Woodward  
Don Wotton  
Dr Tatia Zubrinich

SA  
Vic  
ACT  
WA  
Tas  
Qld  
Qld

**NEXT CUTOFF**  
The cutoff date for the  
next CEnvP intake is  
Friday 2 June 2006.

## AUSTRALASIAN JOURNAL OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

**Helen Ross and Grant Wardell-Johnson**

The EIANZ founded the Australasian Journal of Environmental Management in 1994, to provide a much-needed national interdisciplinary journal focused on policy and practice in resource and environmental management, and a benefit to members. It was edited by Eric Anderson, a former senior Commonwealth public servant, from 1994 to 2004, and is now edited by a team from the School of Natural and Rural Systems Management at the University of Queensland, Gatton. The Editors are Professor Helen Ross and Dr Grant Wardell-Johnson, supported by Associate Editors Drs Marc Hockings, Bill Carter and Stephen Dovers (ANU), and David Hogg (consultant and EIANZ). The journal publishes about 22 peer-reviewed articles per year, and encourages contributions from members of all professions. The editors seek to maintain the high standards and wide professional interest built over the past 12 years, and to provide environmental practitioners with timely, well-researched information on many emerging issues.

### Reviewers and book reviewers needed

The editorial team is seeking to expand its circle of potential reviewers, experts in the wide range of fields and regions on which articles are received, and book reviewers. If you are interested, please contact the editors at [ajem@uq.edu.au](mailto:ajem@uq.edu.au), giving

- Your contact details including email.
- A brief statement of your areas of expertise (a key word, e.g. 'water policy', 'cultural heritage management', 'wildlife ecology' and a sentence or two with more detail). If you have a website, that may also assist.

### March issue

The March 2006 issue is devoted to matters of importance concerning forest policy in general, and to a retrospective of the Regional Forests Agreements of the 1990s in particular.

It includes articles on:

- the participatory nature of the Western Australian Regional Agreement process of the late 1990s (Martin Brueckner, John Duff, Richard McKenna and Pierre Horwitz);
- regulation conceptualised as a partnership between government and business – in the Tasmanian Forest Practices System (Robyn Hollander);
- south-east Queensland's Regional Ecosystem Mapping program (Ben Lawson) and the analysis of the conservation status and threats to priority vascular plant taxa in south-east Queensland undertaken during the Regional Forest Agreement process (Jasmyn Lynch and Wendy Drury);
- natural resource management in Australia, and how regions might better integrate biodiversity conservation into catchment or regional planning for improved conservation practice (Kim Lowe, James Fitzsimons, Tony Gleeson and Andrew Straker).

This thematic collection contributes to the body of literature evaluating the important policy process RFA represents, and has wider implications for the design of both participatory and policy processes and the contribution of scientific data to management decisions.

**Come to the EIANZ Conference 2006 in Adelaide.  
See page 19 for further information.**



# DIVISION NEWS

## ACT Division

On 15 February the ACT Division of the Institute held a successful professional development workshop on best practice approaches to heritage-related referrals, assessments and approvals under the Australian Government's *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

Drawing a mixed group of participants that included numerous members practicing as consultants as well as staff from Commonwealth agencies, the workshop focused on practical approaches to undertaking heritage-related EPBC referrals and assessments. A presentation by Steve Mercer, Director of the Referrals Section in the Department of Environment and Heritage, provided information about the framework within which this activity is undertaken. Then Kelvin Officer and Nicholas Goodwin, practitioners working in the fields of Indigenous and built heritage conservation respectively, shared some of their personal professional experiences engaging with the Act. It was this sharing of practical know-how that was extremely valuable for attendees. A facilitated Q&A session after the presentations allowed members of the audience to raise questions and clarify uncertainties, and allowed all the presenters to share more of their hands-on expertise.

The next ACT Division function will be a lunchtime forum on 13 March on 'Tips and tricks of the environmental change manager'. Will Symons, an environmental professional with years of experience in the field of behavioural change programs, will explain to attendees how they can be an 'Environmental Change Agent' and therefore improve the environmental performance of others. The forum will discuss what the role entails, and the unique skills and knowledge required to be effective and sustainable.

Lachlan Wilkinson

## New South Wales Division

### Event Wrap

On 7 December, NSW Division held a sell out Seminar titled 'Taking the impact out of environmental assessments'. The Seminar discussed what the new Part 3A of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* means for the environmental assessment of major projects in NSW.

Attendees heard presentations from Elizabeth Wild, Practice Leader in Environment and Planning from Phillips Fox; Michael England, National Practice Leader in Environmental Planning from HLA Envirosciences; and Yolande Stone, Director Department of Planning.

As well as being an informative evening discussing the implications of the changes, NSW Division celebrated the conclusion of another successful year with Christmas Drinks accompanied by the gorgeous views across the city that only lawyer's offices can afford. Many thanks to Phillips Fox for hosting this event.

### Re-Launch of Mentoring Scheme

NSW Division has recently resurrected the mentoring scheme which was originally developed by Central Office several years ago. We know of many successful mentoring stories and thought it was an important initiative to get back up and running.

A NSW mentoring guide has been developed and the first round of applications has been received and they are currently being processed. For further information, or to register your interest, please contact our Mentoring Coordinator, David Bell at [Davidb@canterbury.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Davidb@canterbury.nsw.gov.au). The mentoring guidelines are available on the EIANZ website (NSW Division) at <http://202.53.5.47/index.cfm?objectid=2E2C3E61-65BF-EBC1-2C8646E56C69B455>

### NSW Division Business Plan

The NSW Division Committee has finalised its 2006 business plan. Copies can be viewed on the NSW Division homepage <http://202.53.5.47/index.cfm?objectid=2E2C3E61-65BF-EBC1-2C8646E56C69B455>

Anita Mitchell



## South East Queensland Division

2006 has started at a cracking pace for the SEQ team. In February the Executive had a strategic planning/family camping weekend to plan for the 2006-07 year. We are working hard to ensure that there are a range of topical and information events, plenty of networking opportunities, submissions to government on draft plans, regular informative email updates and other new initiatives to be released soon.

Our first event for 2006 was an afternoon forum to introduce the key science and prediction estimates that are the evidence of climate changes happening globally and locally in Queensland. With this forecast, what do we as Government, communities, industry, professionals and individuals need to do to adapt to these pending changes?

The State Government discussion paper, *Climate Smart Adaptation*, was presented by a Department of Natural Resources project team. This paper is a process to seek broader comment and response to the discussion paper.

The SEQ Division will be providing an initial response and a panel and discussion session will allow all participants to clarify and provide comment on the adaptation strategy. From the forum, the Division will be providing a formal response to the State.

This is your opportunity to be a valuable contributor to the submission to State Government on the Adaptation to Climate Change. If you would like to join our team, please email Rose Boyd at [rose.boyd@arup.com.au](mailto:rose.boyd@arup.com.au)

The forum was held on Thursday 16 February 2006. Please visit our website at <http://www.eianzseq.org/Climate%20Change.htm> to download the presentations.

Our next event will be held at the Pelican Waters Ramada on Wednesday 29 March and is titled 'Losing Ground - Erosion and Sediment Control'. This event is being held by popular request as a short version of the 3-day conference run in Cairns last year. To download the flyer, visit our website at <http://www.eianzseq.org/Future%20Events.htm>

Hope to see you there.

Danielle Bolton

## Tasmanian Division

The Tasmanian Division's Christmas function, a cruise on the Derwent River in the *Lady Norfolk* was a great success. The *Lady Norfolk* is a replica of a small square rigger that brought settlers to Tasmania in the early days of the colony. There was just enough breeze to fill the sails for a delightful trip down the river. During the cruise guest speaker, Christine Coughanowr (Manager of the Derwent Estuary Program), gave a fascinating talk on past impacts on the Derwent Estuary and its current state of health.

The Division makes two awards to students studying environmental subjects each year. The first award for the best essay in the third year undergraduate course Environmental Impact Assessment at the University of Tasmania went to Christopher Green, with close runner up Catriona Scott. The second award for the best presentation at the annual seminar for honours students in the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies went to Tim Bendall with Tanya Bailey the runner up. The EIANZ sponsors this event with the generous support of Hobart Water, TEMCO and GHD Pty Ltd. Chris and Tim each received \$200 book vouchers and, together with Catriona and Tanya, certificates and a year's student membership of the EIANZ including subscriptions to the Australian Journal of Environmental Management. Both awards were judged by a panel of EIANZ members.

The Division is waiting to hear the outcome of its application for a grant under Tasmania's Living Environment Community Grants program. The grant will fund a part-time administrative officer for the division and the local branches of three other environmental organisations: the Australian Water Association, Australia and New Zealand Solar Energy Society; and the Clean Air Society of Australia and New Zealand. Other environmental organisations may also be included if we are successful. The goal is to enhance cooperation between local professional organisations and provide a more co-ordinated event program.

Axel von Krussienterna





## INTRODUCING THE JDA ENVIRONMENTAL RECRUITMENT SERVICE

Today, organisations across all industry sectors have a need for well-trained environmental professionals. JDA can now simply and quickly source these professionals and practitioners for you through its dedicated Environmental Recruitment Service.

To support this new service JDA has formed an exclusive alliance with the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand (EIANZ). The alliance will see JDA provide EIANZ members, affiliates and related employers with a range of services, specifically focused on environmental careers. The websites of EIANZ and JDA have been integrated so that both job-hunters and employers can access services through either site.

### THE SERVICE

JDA's Environmental Recruitment service is delivered by highly qualified consultants who are well equipped to define your 'environmental HR needs'. We source environmental professionals through database searches, networking and well targeted advertising. Our purpose built database allows us to quickly and easily identify candidates by qualifications, key experience, industry focus and personal attributes such as language skills. We already have many environmental professionals registered on our database and the list is growing. Candidates include specialists from all sectors of global resources industries in the following broad environmental career categories:

Air quality protection  
Water quality protection  
Waste management  
Fisheries and wildlife  
Forestry  
National parks and protected areas

Energy and climate protection  
Environmental education  
Research and development  
Environmental policy and legislation  
Environmental communication  
Land quality protection and site restoration

### THE BENEFITS

- Easy access to well-trained and diverse environmental specialists
- Recruitment services delivered by environmental career specialists
- Access to advertising jobs on both the EIANZ and JDA websites, as well as other relevant print and electronic media.
- Increased field of candidates available through JDA's sourcing strategies.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION



Contact ...Chris Carter  
Environmental Recruitment Consultant  
John Davidson & Associates (JDA)  
Brisbane Head Office  
+61 7 3205 5977, [carter.c@jda.com.au](mailto:carter.c@jda.com.au)



OR

**1 300 768 577**

**Global People Solutions**

**John Davidson & Associates**

**[www.jda.com.au](http://www.jda.com.au)**



# EIANZ CONFERENCE 2006

Adelaide, South Australia, 17 – 20 September 2006

## Environmental Practice

On behalf of the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand, the Organising Committee of the EIANZ Conference 2006 invites all members of the environment profession to join colleagues in Adelaide, South Australia from 17-20 September 2006.



The Conference will be held at the Adelaide Hilton, in the centre of the city and adjacent to Adelaide's theatre and restaurant districts.

The theme of the Conference is Environmental Practice, aimed at ensuring that environmental practitioners in Australia and New Zealand can interact with their peers on their work and ways in which good practice can be enhanced and disseminated.

The Conference will appeal to all those who work in any of the numerous aspects of environment such as management, planning, education, law, industrial operations, research and audit. A two-day scientific program is planned in association

with field trips and the opportunity for all delegates to enjoy pre and post Conference tours to some of South Australia's major attractions.

Abstracts of papers can be submitted by 31 March 2006 through the conference organiser's (Plevin) website.

Further information is located on the web at <http://www.plevin.com.au/eianz2006/> as well as <http://www.eianz.org/> (go to 'What's on').

We look forward to seeing you in Adelaide in September.

## DEADLINE FOR ABSTRACTS — 31 MARCH 2006

### WHO'S WHO IN THE CENTRAL OFFICE



**Mark Nan Tie**  
Chief Executive Officer

Mark Nan Tie holds a Bachelor of Science (Hons. Geology) and a Master of Environmental Science from Monash University, and is a Certified Environmental Practitioner and a RABQSA certified lead

environmental auditor. In the Institute Mark is the immediate past Registrar of the CEnvP program and a past Secretary and Vice President of the Victorian division. He played a primary role in developing the CEnvP scheme prior to becoming the Registrar. Mark has 18 years professional experience working in the earth and environmental science fields. This includes environmental auditing and reporting, waste management, due diligence and corporate policy development projects in Australia and abroad. This experience includes senior roles in the public sector and as Rio Tinto's HSE Reporting Manager and a lead auditor.

**Denise Sheard,**  
Office Manager

Denise was appointed as Office Manager in EIANZ Central Office early in 2005.

Prior to joining EIANZ, Denise was Office Administrator for SIDS and Kids Victoria in the Family Services and Community Education Unit for five years and was previously Office Manager for Trust for Nature (Victoria).



#### Membership Assistant

The position of Membership Assistant (part-time) is in the process of being filled.



# CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

The Australian Government took an interest in Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) recently and called for viewpoints on CSR. This was initiated late last year by an excellent government Discussion Paper by a federal agency, the *Corporations and Markets Advisory Committee* (CAMAC). This body advises the Commonwealth Treasury. The Institute responded on 24 February 2006 through its *External Relations Standing Committee* which sent our submission on behalf of members.

The CAMAC Discussion Paper gave a solid background for understanding the legal jurisdiction and constraint on corporations that want to be good corporate citizens while not compromising financial returns to their shareholders. It has been on the CAMAC website since November 2005 at: [http://www.camac.gov.au/camac/camac.nsf/byHeadline/PDFDiscussion+Papers/\\$file/CSR\\_DP.pdf](http://www.camac.gov.au/camac/camac.nsf/byHeadline/PDFDiscussion+Papers/$file/CSR_DP.pdf)

In response, EIANZ's submission focuses on corporations law, mandatory CSR reporting and verification by qualified practitioners. The full submission is on our website at:

<http://202.53.5.47/download.cfm?DownloadFile=95A1C1E1-65BF-EBC1-20A6778C01EBD0C7>

If adopted by government – the EIANZ recommendations would affect both the business sector and environmental practitioners. The submission in reply stated that the Institute sees merit in:

1. Australian corporations law being amended to require company directors and business managers to take relevant environmental and social considerations into account in their decision-making;

## MANAGING PLANTS FOR CLIMATE

The Institute has been advised of a call for expressions of interest from research partners, collaborators, investors and interested parties to connect with the new Managing Plants for Climate Co-operative Research Centre bid for 2006.

Managing Plants for Climate will work to:

- broaden understanding of how plants will grow in future climates, especially with increased concentrations of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere; and on this basis
- improve our understanding of the terrestrial carbon cycle;
- assess impacts, develop adaptation strategies and identify new opportunities for land-based

2. elevation of environmental and social issues beyond the level of compliance to a more strategic level and making them central to corporate decision-making;
3. due diligence responsibilities of directors and managers in relation to the environment and community need to be strengthened;
4. the focus and purpose of CSR reports is outcome not process;
5. scope of CSR reporting being set in proportion to the size and/or impact of an organisation;
6. introduction of some form of mandatory CSR reporting in the private sector for environmental, social and broad economic issues;
7. threshold at which mandatory reporting would be a requirement could only be defined by directly engaging the business community in the decision;
8. companies within the organisation's supply chain (both upstream and downstream) should not be neglected in CSR reporting;
9. involvement of certified or qualified environmental practitioners is critical to ensuring good implementation by business and acceptance by the community;
10. acceptance of the use of the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) and Sustainability Guidelines as a framework for corporate reporting.

The EIANZ response was co-ordinated by the Institute's *External Relations Standing Committee* and principal author was Tiernan Humphrys.

- industries and natural resources;
- contribute to the development of improved climate predictions; and
- communicate and inform government, industry and the wider community on climate change and issues, and train a new generation of research leaders.

While the closing date for current submissions was 31 January 2006, members with a potential interest in this topic may still wish to follow it up for future reference. Further information is available through the CRC for Greenhouse Accounting website: [www.greenhouse.crc.org.au/mpc](http://www.greenhouse.crc.org.au/mpc).

