

THE ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTITIONER

No. 2

June 2006

From the Editor's Desk

NOT JUST NEWS

The Environmental Practitioner has been established primarily as a newsletter to make members aware of what is happening within the Institute, to promote familiarity with the Institute's key personnel, and to provide other general information of potential interest to members. The information flow, however, is not intended to be one-way, and the newsletter welcomes contributions from all members.



This issue contains some examples of the types of contributions that would be welcome. On page 12 is a short article by Graeme Kelleher describing some work with IUCN in which he has had a key role. There must be many members doing things which are a bit different from the usual range of work, and which they would like to share with others. This helps the wider membership to appreciate just how diverse is the role of the environmental practitioner.

On page 4 is an article on 'Environmental hypochondria' which I have prepared based on my experience in having to deal with this condition on an increasing basis over many years. It is an issue

which I am sure faces many other environmental practitioners and which will not go away until positive action is taken to address it - action which would sit comfortably within the charter of this Institute. There are undoubtedly many other issues relevant to environmental practice which are of concern to members, some of which are aired at EIANZ conferences and seminars but which could attract much wider attention through *The Environmental Practitioner*.

Members are invited to submit articles on professional issues about which they are concerned. They can be full-length articles (preferably a maximum of about 1300 words, or two pages in the newsletter) or shorter comments/letters to the editor. Articles may be controversial or provocative, but not libellous. On the other hand, there is also scope for submitting 'good news' items, describing positive achievements with an area of environmental practice in which members are active.

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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.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Bill Haylock

With the initiation of our new electronic newsletter I will be providing you with a brief update of the Institute's activities, particularly the various workings of the Executive, Council, Standing Committees and Working Groups.



community of environmental professionals to attend this landmark occasion and ensure your contribution to a sustainable future.

SEQ Students and Young Professionals

On Friday evening 7 April I attended the Environmental Speed network event hosted by the Students and Young Professionals of the SEQ Division. It was a most delightful evening where students and young professionals had the opportunity to meet a variety of senior professionals and discuss career options and pathways. Every five minutes a bell would sound and we were all required to meet and greet a different group of participants.

Professional Indemnity Insurance

The PI Insurance Working Group has continued to have discussions with brokers and underwriters. A successful meeting has now been held a broker and an underwriter. This has resulted in us reviewing an acceptable policy and we are now in the process of having a variety of members' requirements reviewed and costed.

As you may be aware, this has been an ongoing saga over a period of two years. It would appear that we are getting close to being able to deliver to the membership our own scheme, tailor-made to environmental practitioners. The next time I talk with you I hope that we have some exciting and useful news in this regard.

Tattersall's Awards

Mr Simon Molesworth AM QC, our Immediate Past President, will receive a Tattersall's Award for Enterprise and Achievement recognising his ongoing work to raise awareness of Chronic Fatigue Syndrome in the community and his campaigning to raise funds for research. Simon is the Honorary State President of the ME/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Society of Victoria, known as CFS/ME Victoria, a voluntary position he has held for over 7 years. Congratulations Simon from all of our members.

50th International Meteorological Organisation Prize

One of Australia's most eminent meteorologists and a long term Fellow of the Institute Dr John Zillman, received the 50th International Meteorological Organization (IMO) Prize for his exceptional individual contribution to the field of meteorology. As former Director of both the Australian Bureau of Meteorology and the United Nations World Meteorological Organization, Dr Zillman has held, and continues to hold, many roles and appointments in the world of science. On behalf of all our members, congratulations John.

Council

At its April meeting the Council agreed to the following actions:

- To utilise the services of Mr Mark Rudd from Enterprise Care Not for Profit Services Pty Ltd, as the Institute's business and financial advisors.
- To appoint Bentleys MRI as our new auditors.
- We agreed that the Executive would finalise the new Corporate Plan for 2006/2007 on behalf of the Council.
- We also agreed that the Institute would help revitalise its partnership with the Earth Foundation Australia (EFA), to ensure we have a tax deductible vehicle for raising donations and funds for various community activities, particularly student initiatives. Please note that we will shortly be advertising for additional members to join the EFA Board.

Executive

The Executive has now commenced the arduous task of preparing the Institute's 2006/2007 budget. This is a time-consuming process and one which we must conduct thoroughly and with due care and prudence. The budget will reflect a number of new initiatives proposed in the Corporate Plan. In brief these will include improved corporate governance, development of and publication of new policies, a best practices bibliography publication, a 'priorities and key messages' paper, a new membership form, the structured creation of a professional development program, and the establishment of a Special Interest Section for Impact Assessment.

2006 Conference

The program and keynote speakers for the 2006 Conference in Adelaide this September are now set. In addition to presented papers there will also be a series of workshops. The majority of these workshops will focus directly on setting standards for best practice and on setting standards and processes for developing competent, ethical and accountable practitioners. This conference will establish a new format for future conferences and will allow all participants to help drive our profession in delivering excellence and credibility in environmental practice.

I encourage all members, associates and the wider



BIBLIOGRAPHY OF ENVIRONMENTAL BEST PRACTICES

Are there any environmental best practice publications which you find to be a useful reference and would recommend to clients or colleagues as an information source? Perhaps you or your organisation have prepared such a document and would like to encourage its wider use.

The Institute, through its Policy and Practice Standing Committee, is compiling a bibliography of such documents (printed or electronic) to assist its members. The target date for producing the first edition of the bibliography is the Adelaide conference in September 2006.

If you can suggest any publications for listing in this bibliography, please forward information in the following format to David Hogg at dhpl@bigpond.com.

1. Title of publication.
2. Author/organisation.
3. Publication date.
4. Format (i.e. printed, electronic, both).
5. Number of pages.

6. Intended readership (e.g. professional engineers, construction contractors, general community).
7. Is the publication currently available?
8. If so, source of publication (i.e. address for obtaining printed material, website for electronic publications).
9. Purchase price (if any).
10. General comments on scope of publication (e.g. topics covered, relevant geographical area if applicable).
11. Any restrictions on availability or use?
12. Special features, other comments etc.
13. Your own phone contact details (in case of any queries).

If it would make your task easier, particularly if you are nominating a large number of publications, you can contact David Hogg as above to receive a proforma Word document for copying and completing.

Also, if you are planning on nominating and documenting a large number of publications, it

CONFERENCE UPDATE

Environment Institute of Australia and
New Zealand 2006 Conference
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 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.

Keynote speakers include John Scanlon, Independent Commissioner on the Murray Darling Basin Commission; Bill Bayfield, Chief Executive, Environment, Bay of Plenty in New Zealand; Jeff Tryens from the State of Oregon in the USA (and now Executive Director, SA Strategic Planning - Community Connection, advising the SA Premier on state strategic planning and community

consultation); and Yvonne Sneddon, the Presiding Member of the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management Board.

The conference program will include nine workshops specifically targeted at environmental professionals and their professional needs, and over 50 papers will be presented on a range of topics of interest.

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 post Conference tours to some of South Australia's major attractions.

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

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

We look forward to seeing you in Adelaide in September.



ENVIRONMENTAL HYPOCHONDRIA: A CONDITION WARRANTING PROFESSIONAL TREATMENT

David Hogg

Imagine that you are a doctor who has been consulted by a patient who is convinced that he is suffering from a serious disease which he learnt about from a television documentary the previous week. Having looked after this patient for many years, you know from his past medical history, his current condition and his home and work situation that the likelihood of him contracting this disease is minimal. As a professional medical practitioner, what would you do?

You could dismiss his concerns with a cursory explanation, which is unlikely to be a satisfactory outcome from the viewpoint of the patient, who may then try to seek another more sympathetic doctor. You could give in to his concerns and embark on a prolonged or expensive series of investigations which you feel is quite unnecessary. You could refer him to a specialist for a more authoritative opinion, but you know that the specialist would give you no thanks being diverted from more critical cases. Or you could prolong the consultation in order to explain from first principles why he is most unlikely to have the disease, knowing that this will disrupt your schedule for the day, causing inconvenience to other patients.

The health profession has many parallels with the environmental profession, the main distinction being that medical practitioners take care of people's internal workings while environmental practitioners look after their external environment. Just as hypochondria is a situation which faces medical practitioners, particularly at the general level, so many environmental practitioners have to deal with a condition which I would describe as *environmental hypochondria*.

People who suffer from environmental hypochondria imagine that the adverse effects of developments or decisions are much worse than can be demonstrated by logical analysis of the real-world situation, or who are worried about non-existent impacts for no sound reason.

As a general environmental practitioner, I have encountered many environmental hypochondriacs over the years, most of whom fall into one of the following categories:

1. Clients, generally promoting major projects, who have a limited appreciation of environmental issues, are concerned about threats to the project caused by bureaucratic delays or legal challenges, and are prepared

to pay the necessary price to eliminate such threats.

2. Members of the community opposing a development for environmental reasons. In some cases the environmental hypochondria reflects genuine concern based on ignorance and sometimes fuelled by provocative or imaginative media reports. In other cases, it is contrived as an excuse to mask the real reasons for such opposition, which may relate to real estate prices or basic 'nimbyism'. Such contrived concerns can be compared with the child who feigns illness to avoid having to go to school.
3. Staff of consent or advisory authorities who either lack the professional experience to make confident decisions in relation to environmental issues or, like the community-based malingerers, deliberately play up their concerns to support a hidden agenda of personal or institutional opposition to a proposal.

Environmental hypochondria is a condition which justifies professional treatment, but this is often frustrating for environmental practitioners because such treatment diverts their resources away from other work which would be more productive in achieving good outcomes for the environment. As a consultant, I find that about one third of my time is devoted to addressing issues arising from environmental hypochondria, and that the results of this work contribute nothing towards better environmental outcomes. In some cases the net effect is negative, as human resources and funding are diverted away from discretionary projects which would enhance the environment or the state of environmental knowledge (e.g. rehabilitation projects, monitoring or research). This is one of the tragic aspects of environmental hypochondria.

There is another tragic aspect which can affect the hypochondriacs themselves. I have observed over many years that people who are seen as suffering from the condition, whether genuine or contrived, command a low level of respect within the wider professional community. While they may be highly proficient in the fields in which they are trained, for example, as scientists, town planners or administrators, their professional credibility can suffer enormously once they acquire reputations as environmental hypochondriacs. Consequently, when they do have



valid points to contribute to the environmental debate, their views are readily discounted based on the 'crying wolf' principle.

Extreme cases of environmental hypochondria as experienced by people in positions of influence (e.g. in consent authorities) can have serious consequences in delaying projects or threatening their viability, even where the proponent has addressed environmental issues in a responsible manner. This can lead to a process which a colleague once described to me as 'planning by bankruptcy'. I have witnessed some projects where this description has been too close to the truth to regard such a comment as funny.

A predisposing factor to environmental hypochondria is legislation. Three particular types of legislation which have significantly increased the incidence of environmental hypochondria are those dealing respectively with threatened species, cultural heritage and tree protection. A fixation on trivial issues, real or contrived, arising from such legislation can inhibit the ability of the community and some professional practitioners to focus on the health of the environment from a holistic perspective.

The environmental practitioner faces comparable dilemmas to the medical practitioner in dealing with environmental hypochondria. The easy way out may be to humour the hypochondriac, spend large amounts of one's own time or that of a specialist in investigating and treating the

imaginary problem and convince the client that this is a necessary cost of the project, which must be paid for. I view this as amounting to professional overservicing, something which is deeply frowned on in the medical profession, although the EIANZ Code of Ethics is silent on the topic.

Simply dismissing the concern may be considered appropriate where it is obviously contrived, but is an unsatisfactory solution for people with genuine concerns. Furthermore, where the hypochondriac is in a position of power and can stop or delay a project, this approach is likely to be counter-productive.

This leaves only the approach based on counselling and education, an approach which can also be labour-intensive but which has potential long-term benefits as other professions and the wider community acquire a deeper understanding of the environment and the profession that supports it. This is not an area in which this Institute has been very active to date, but there is ample opportunity to pursue it in the future, potentially in association with the Earth Foundation - Australia, which was established primarily to promote balanced environmental education within the wider community (see page 6). What the Institute could achieve in combating environmental hypochondria, however, depends very much on how much effort its individual members are prepared to contribute.

EIANZ POLICIES ON WEBSITE

A series of environmental policies prepared by the Policy and Practice Standing Committee (PPSC) and adopted by the Council following review by the membership has recently been placed on the website at <http://www.eianz.org> (go to 'Publications').

These policies are as follows:

- Conservation of native vegetation (2000)
- Public environmental reporting (2001)
- Environmental management systems (2001)
- Environmental education (2004)
- Public participation in environmental decision-making (2004)

A further draft policy on energy is current on the website (see 'Homepage') for comment by members.

There is also a set of interim policy overviews (IPOs) which provide a brief summary of those policies which have been adopted or are close to completion.

The PPSC is working on further policies which will be placed on the website in draft form for member comment in due course. Those currently at various stages of preparation and review within the Committee include:

- Climate change
- Sustainability
- Water

Members will be advised when draft policies are available for comment through this newsletter or the monthly e-mail bulletin.



External Relations Committee

John Ashe, Chair

The External Relations Committee is a Standing Committee of Council under By-Law 4 (Standing Committees). Its role is to:

- provide support to the President on his or her role as principal spokesperson for the Institute;
- prepare submissions to public inquiries and responses to public reports relevant to the aims of the Institute; and
- develop networks within government, industry, the media and related professions to facilitate external communications.



In addition to submission work, committee members have represented the Institute in meetings with governmental and non-governmental organisations, including for example the Australian Committee for the International Union for the Conservation of Nature. Australian Divisions and the New Zealand Chapter also perform external relations and networking functions, including preparation of submissions to governments. The current committee members are:

- John Ashe FEIANZ (ACT Division, Committee Chair)
- Nicola Bryden MEIANZ (ACT Division)
- Pene Burns MEIANZ (New Zealand Chapter)
- Bill Haylock FEIANZ (SEQ Division, Institute President)
- Tiernan Humphrys MEIANZ (Victorian Division)
- Stuart Reeh MEIANZ (Victorian Division, Institute Secretary)
- Andrew Sedger MEIANZ (NSW Division)
- Justin Sherrard MEIANZ (NSW Division)

Recent and current items on the Committee's work program include:

- drafting of Key Institute Messages for use in the Institute's public communications activities;
- preparation of a draft communications strategy for the Institute;
- preparation of a submission in response to the Australian Government Corporations and Markets Advisory Committee; and
- preparation of a submission to the House of Representatives Inquiry into a Sustainability Charter.

For further information about the Committee, please contact the Committee Chair by email: john.ashe@netspeed.com.au or by phone: (02) 6239 7835.

THE EARTH FOUNDATION – AUSTRALIA: IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE EIANZ

David Bell

Company Secretary, EFA

The Earth Foundation - Australia is a charitable foundation which is eligible for tax deductible donations in accordance with the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*. It is also listed on the Register of Environmental Organisations by the Department of Environment and Heritage (DEH). The Register lists environmental organisations with tax deductibility status.

The EFA was established in 1990 to promote, sponsor and provide education and to disseminate information about the environment, specifically through the publication of books, monographs and papers. The intended audience for such publications was not just the environment profession but the wider community.

It is a Public Company in accordance with the *Corporations Law*. Its programs and funds are

administered through a Board of Directors.

Since the early 1990s the EFA has produced a number of publications including:

- *World Heritage values and their protection in far Southeast NSW* (Geoff Mosely and Alec Costin)
- *ESD from A to Z* (Fred Bell)
- *The nature of sustainable development* (Sharon Beder)
- *Acid sulfate soils - facing the challenges* (Ian White and Mike Melville)

The latter publication was seen as the first in a series of monographs. Despite attempts to attract suitable copy, no further monographs have been published. The publications program has now



been discontinued because of the lack of resources within EFA and EIANZ to manage the production and marketing aspects effectively.

In November 1997 the EFA and the then EIA established a co-operative arrangement. The EFA offered the EIA the opportunity to raise tax deductible donations for projects such as the newly announced Student Initiative. In return the EIA offered logistical or 'back office' administrative support as well as access to a diverse group of professionals from its membership who could contribute their expertise to the EFA including membership of the EFA Board.

Initial work concentrated on submissions from the EFA to charitable bodies to raise funds to support the Student Initiative. These were unsuccessful. However, from 2000 to 2003, the EFA undertook the following joint venture projects with the then EIA:

- Review of the Student Initiative proposal requesting grant funds and submission of that paper for consideration to the then Environment Minister Kemp.
- Launch of Earth Foundation/EIA National Students' Awards. Detailed description of the Awards judging and photographs of Inaugural Student Award winner from Queensland published in EIA Newsletter and displayed on the Earth Foundation page of the EIA website.

- Earth Foundation flyer requesting donations to the Environmental Student Endowment Fund inserted into EIANZ Newsletter annually.

This period saw an effort to raise the profile of Earth Foundation especially through the Students' Awards.

Due to other EIANZ priorities no further project work between the EIANZ and EFA has proceeded since mid-2003. The EIANZ Council, however, has recently decided to revitalise its partnership with the EFA and is in the process of seeking active EIANZ members to join the EFA Board. It is also seeking to develop collaborative projects which are consistent with the EIANZ's role as a professional institute and with the EFA's role as a registered charity which is community-based and not merely supporting a professional organisation. This includes re-establishing the system of EFA-funded National Student Awards for 2006-07.

The funding of these awards is dependent on individual and corporate donations to the Environmental Student Endowment Fund. All donations to this fund are tax deductible. If you or your business can assist in this regard, please print and complete the form below and forward with your donation to:

Earth Foundation Australia
 c/o Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand
 GPO Box 211
 MELBOURNE VIC 3001



Name _____

Street _____

Suburb _____ State _____ Postcode _____

Please find enclosed a cheque/money order for the amount \$50 \$150
 (Made payable to the Earth Foundation Australia) \$100 \$200

\$.....
 other amount - please specify

Please debit donation from selected credit card Bankcard Mastercard Visa

Card holder's name: _____ Card expiry date: _____

Card number: _____ Total: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____



DIVISION NEWS

New Zealand Chapter

New Zealand embraces certification

The first seven New Zealand practitioners to gain the CEnvP qualification were officially named by the Minister for the Environment, Mr David Benson-Pope, at a function in Christchurch on 9 March.

In making the presentations, Mr Benson-Pope noted the importance of the role of professionals in achieving good environmental outcomes. The New Zealand Government was actively promoting the development of good practice, he said, through initiatives such as skill development for decision-makers working under the Resource Management Act. The role of environment professions was likely to increase as the Government adopted more of a whole-of-government approach to environment issues.



The group of newly certified practitioners includes: Pene Burns, senior environmental scientist, Sinclair Knight Merz; Bill Chisolm, resource consent, ecology and bio-security consultant; Rochelle Hardy, policy analyst, strategy and planning group, Christchurch City Council; Bob Penter, group manager of environmental services, GHD Ltd; Professor Ian Spellerberg, director of the Isaac Centre for Nature Conservation, Lincoln University; Rebecca Roper-Gee, currently based in Cambridge, England, working for the British Antarctic Survey; and Shaun Lewis, senior advisor, reporting and review group, Ministry for the Environment.

Digital Earth Summit

This event will be held in Auckland on 27-30 August 2006. The Summit will focus on how we deliver on a sustainable future for New Zealand and the role that digital technology can play in gathering, sharing and using information for high quality, shared decision making.

Digital Earth is a global initiative aimed at harnessing the world's data and information resources to develop a virtual 3-D model of Earth in order to monitor, measure, and forecast natural and human activity on the planet. The development of the Digital Earth project is involving the grassroots efforts of many individuals, companies, university researchers and government organisations.

The Digital Earth movement has held four international symposia since 1999, most recently in Tokyo in March 2005. The Auckland Summit will be the first opportunity to focus Digital Earth's resources towards specific issues of sustainability in partnership with New Zealand's leaders to achieve its sustainability goals.

Members who are interested in participating in the Summit can get full details from the web-site <http://www.digitalearth06.org.nz/>



South East Queensland Division

The year is starting to fly past already as we come up to the half way mark.

On 29 March, the SEQ Division held a one day forum focusing on Erosion and Sediment control. The Losing Ground forum had over 125 attendees. The successful event was highlighted with talks from Paul Metcalf from Auckland Regional Council, Fiona Chandler from Healthy Waterways and Scott Paton from Brisbane City Council. The presentations are now available for download from our website at <http://www.eianzseq.org/Losing%20Ground.htm>

The Student and Young Professionals network has also been very active running its first speednetworking event. This fantastic night matched up experience professionals with students and professionals with less than five years experience for seven minute blocks. Then on the ring of the bell, it all changed and they moved on to the next group. The feedback from this event has been extremely positive with many requests to run it again.

The Division's next event is:

22 June 2006 - A perfect match - uniting consultation and impact assessment.

The EIANZ and IAP2 invite you to attend a one-day conference exploring the practices of impact assessment and community consultation. This conference the first of its kind and will provide practitioners from both fields the opportunity to hear from industry experts through keynote presentations, case studies and workshops. A flyer for this event will be available soon.

Western Australia Division

On 5 April, Brendan Hammond (Development Approvals Coordinator) from the Office of Development Approvals Coordination discussed the role of the Office of Development Approvals Coordination in Project Approvals at an event that was organised by the WA Division's Committee.

The Office of Development Approvals Coordination (ODAC) is a small team of specialists who understand the many different forms of approval that may be required for industrial and resource-based projects in Western Australia, and who are knowledgeable about the processes and requirements for submissions seeking approval. The ODAC is located in the Department of Premier and Cabinet and is in regular contact with other agencies that are involved in project approvals processes, including the Department of Environment and the Environmental Protection Authority.

For straightforward projects the ODAC team's involvement is to provide advice 'as needed' and to work with all agencies to ensure that approval processes are being managed within agreed timelines.

For complex projects the ODAC plays an important coordinating role in the Agency Scoping phase of the Integrated Project Approvals System. In this phase the ODAC works closely with project proponents and the Department of Industry and Resources' Project Manager to develop requirements for submissions, and timelines for approval. The Project Definition Document is used to initiate this interaction.

Brendan spent some time discussing the Clearing of Native Vegetation Regulations and the frustration that the process is causing proponents, consultants and the Department of Environment. Currently, it is not uncommon to have to wait nine months or more from the time of lodging an application until a conditional permit to clear is received. Brendan reassured the audience that a serious review of the Regulations is imminent.

Brendan's presentation attracted considerable interest amongst Perth's environmental practitioners with more than 70 members and non-members attending the event.

Tasmanian Division

The Tasmanian Division is busy organising its annual one-day conference to be held on 4 August. This year's topic is Repair, Reconstruction and Reconciliation, a Profile of Environmental Remediation in Tasmania. So far there are 11 speakers.



ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLANS

Dr Adam Smith, FEIANZ, FNQ Councillor

Environmental Management Plans (EMP) are a tool that are becoming more widely used to manage a diversity of operations (construction and operation of activities such as tourism, dredging, sewage, aquaculture) while providing the necessary protection for the environment.

EMPs should be simple, effective, designed to suit your particular operation and dynamic (can change with time, including through continual improvement). Generally an EMP will be comprised of an introduction/description of your operation and the surrounding area and then a series of elements that deal individually with specific issues.

As a minimum the EMP needs to address:

- identification of potential environmental impacts;
- how you will manage what you do to minimise those impacts;
- monitoring program and emergency response plans and any relevant issue based plans;
- what you will do to ensure that all your staff

and clients know what they should be doing to meet the requirements of your EMP, including who is the responsible person for key actions; and

- how you will determine that all this is actually working, fix things that are not effective and improve your EMP.

Depending on your preference and your operation you can format your EMP to deal with activities (for example 'Small Boat Operations') or to deal with issues (for example 'Water Quality').

A very successful EMP training workshop was held in April 2006 for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) and Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service staff with experts invited from consulting (Dr Riku Koskela), tourism (Kim Thomas) and Defence (Alan McManus). The feedback received was 'Best training I have attended in a long time. Well done EIM. Informative interesting and interactive. It was excellent to have consultant and industry involved in the session'.



Training for GBRMPA and QPWS staff in Townsville, Queensland on activities and issues of EMPs.

Please view http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/management/eim/eia/emp.html or contact the Environmental Impact Management (EIM) unit at GBRMPA on (07) 4750 0700 if you wish to see examples of EMPs or if you have any questions.



MEET THE COUNCIL (PART 2)

Nigel Murphy, Victorian Councillor



Nigel Murphy is the Victorian Councillor for the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand and the Chair of the Certified Environmental Practitioner Board of Australia and New Zealand (CEnvP). He is also a Director and Principal Environmental Scientist of an environmental consultancy in Australia, Earth Systems, and a sister company in Laos (Earth Systems Lao). He holds a Bachelor of Science (Hons) and a Master of Environmental Science from Monash University and has more than 20 years of experience as an environmental and earth scientist.

He has a strong interest in the history and development of the environmental profession and a strong background in environmental practice, having worked as a consultant on many environmental assignments for private sector, government, aid and development clients within Australia and overseas, particularly Asia. He specialises in environmental project management and multidisciplinary environmental assessments.

Axel von Krusentierna, Tasmanian Councillor

I have been a member of the Institute since the early 90s but not very active as I was living in regional NSW. I am an environmental consultant specialising in environmental audit, and bushfire risk assessment and fire management planning. After completing a Master of Science degree at the University of Wollongong I worked for an environmental consultancy in Wollongong for 5 years before starting my own business, AVK Environmental Management. I have been undertaking projects in Tasmania for a number of years, commuting from NSW. This led to buying land, building and moving to Tasmania about this time last year.

Living close to Hobart has given me an opportunity to be more involved in EIANZ activities. Stuart Reeh approached me last year to ask if I would be willing to take on the role Tasmanian Councillor. Being game for almost anything, I said 'yes', and am now in the process of finding out what being a EIANZ Councillor involves. Strangest thing is the Council teleconferences, all those disembodied voices. I'm never quite sure how many people are on the end of the line. Hopefully I'll meet them all one day.



Lachlan Wilkinson, ACT Councillor



Lachlan Wilkinson is the Councillor for the ACT Division. He has been a member of the EIANZ for 15 years and a member of the ACT Division Executive since 2001. Lachlan trained initially as a forester and worked in forest and park management, natural resource management and land use planning for State Government agencies for fifteen years. He later completed a Master's degree in Environmental Studies at Melbourne University. In 1996, he left rural Victoria behind to work for the Department of the Environment and Heritage in the National Capital, initially on national and international biodiversity issues. For the last three years, he has worked in the Government and Transport Section of the Department managing the environmental impact assessment process under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act for a range of projects including airport, road, rail and electricity transmission proposals.

Outside work, he is the President of the Canberra Two Day Walk Committee and Secretary of the ACT Race & Fitness Walking Club.



MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Graeme Kelleher: Working with IUCN

Graeme Kelleher, a member of the ACT Division and from 1979 to 1994, Chairman and Chief Executive of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, maintains an ongoing advisory role with the Authority and the Commonwealth Department of Environment and Heritage in his semi-retirement. He is currently working with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) on marine protected areas. The following is a brief account of what is happening in the IUCN in this area of work.

IUCN's World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) recognised some years ago the need to focus on the high seas - areas of the marine environment that are outside national jurisdiction. They cover more than 42% of the world's surface and constitute about 64% of the world's marine surface area. Consequently the WCPA established an international task force to address these areas, with the aim of accelerating the establishment and effective management of a global, representative system of marine protected areas (MPAs). I chair this High Seas MPA Task Force.

Particularly in this millennium, there has been considerable progress, to which the Task Force has contributed, in establishing the legal/political foundation for the global system. Major international commitments have been made to achieving the above aim by 2012, although the precise wording of each commitment varies in minor ways. These commitments include the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in 2002, the World Parks Congress in 2003, the World Conservation Congress in 2004, various United

Nations General Assembly (UNGA) resolutions and commitments by the Conference of Parties (COP) of the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD).

The Task Force consists of a series of working groups that are chaired by an individual with particular expertise either in an area of science, law or politics or in a particular geographic region. These chairs constitute a Steering Committee which develops policies and co-ordinates the work of the entire Task Force.

The particular difficulty underlying this program is that no nation or other entity owns the high seas - either the seabed or the water column. The legal basis which gives us hope for progress is the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), which came into effect in 1994. Unfortunately, the USA, as usual, is not a party to this Convention, but most of the world's nations are members. The UNCLOS is complemented by the provisions of the CBD, which require parties to control the behaviour of their citizens and organisations so as to minimise damage to the world's biosphere, including the high seas.

We are now entering the most difficult part - establishing specific MPAs. A few nations, notably including the USA, Norway and Japan, generally oppose any control on activities in the high seas through the establishment of MPAs. We have a most challenging future and if the 2012 targets are met, it will be an extraordinary achievement. We need any help we can get!

Graeme Kelleher. AO. FEIANZ, FTSE, FIE Aust.

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW ROUNDTABLE OF AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

The Roundtable (ELRANZ) is a joint project of the National Environmental Law Association of Australia (NELA) and the Resource Management Law Association of New Zealand (RMLA) which commenced in 2005. It is a multidisciplinary approach to improve environmental laws and policies.

The ELRANZ dialogue generated through shared experiences will lead to a better understanding of the current laws and policies and how they operate. The Roundtable will use facilitation, consensus building and public participation techniques for its projects.

Members of EIANZ are invited to become Associates of the Roundtable (no fee) which gives you email news on ELRANZ developments.

For information please email johnhaydon@ecodirections.com

John Haydon
Member EIANZ & CEnvP
Convenor, Environmental Law Roundtable of Australia and New Zealand



NEW ZEALAND CHAPTER'S FIRST FELLOW: Professor Ian Spellerberg

Professor Ian Spellerberg is the first member in New Zealand to be appointed a Fellow of the Institute. After receiving his PhD (in ecology and conservation) from La Trobe University, Ian was awarded a Humboldt Fellowship to work at the Max Planck Institute in Germany. He then went on to the University of Southampton where he helped to establish one of the first interdisciplinary environmental degree programs in the UK. He was later appointed Director of the Centre for Environmental Sciences at the University of Southampton and subsequently advised other universities about interdisciplinary programmes. In addition to his university work, Ian worked as an ecological consultant and an advisor for the Forestry Commission, regional government, conservation agencies and environmental consultancies. For some years he was also a Scientific Advisor to the EU and made many trips to Brussels. While in England, he was made a Fellow of the Linnean Society, a Fellow of WWF (UK) and also a Fellow of the Institute of Biology. While involved in the affairs of the British Ecological Society, Ian saw a need for a professional institute to cater for the needs of an increasing number of ecological practitioners. He subsequently took part in the process leading to the establishment of the Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (IEEM).

In 1994, Ian was invited to be the Director of the Centre for Resource Management at Lincoln

University. In the last ten years he has been directly involved in the University's growth and restructuring. He is now Director of the Isaac Centre for Nature Conservation at Lincoln University. This Centre has joint programs with German and Austrian Universities. As was the case in England, Ian also undertakes consultancy and advisory work and from time to time is called on as an expert witness in the Environment Court.

Ian Spellerberg was a founding member of the New Zealand Chapter of EIANZ and is currently Vice President of the Chapter. He is also a member of the Certification Board. He is President of the New Zealand Plant Conservation Network (with a website that has 650,000 hits per month) and in addition serves on a number of New Zealand environmental and conservation committees. Ian is also engaged in international research on biological diversity and is a member of DIVERSITAS (the international science organisation for biological diversity; secretariat in Paris). He recently helped with a DIVERSITAS project in Cambodia.

Ian has published many scientific papers, written and edited several textbooks, and frequently writes editorial articles for newspapers. He is also on the editorial board of several scientific journals. His current research includes environmental sustainability projects (with schools and local towns), and large scale ecological restoration projects across the Canterbury Floodplains (Greenway Canterbury).

CERTIFICATION UPDATE

New CEnvPs

The following persons have recently completed the requirements for certification:

Mark Arrow	NSW	Peter MacTaggart	Qld	Alexandra Tunnock	Qld
Graham Dart	Qld	Bruce Penman	Qld	John Turville	NSW
Tony Hill	Vic	Robert Penter	NZ	Kevin Wood	Vic
Kerry Laszig	WA	Roland Tan	Vic	Jenny Yan	WA
Shaun Lewis	NZ	Brett Thomson	Qld		

A full list of Certified Environmental Practitioners is in the 'Directory' on the certification website at <http://www.cenvp.org>. Currently there are 122 practitioners certified.

Mid Year Intake extended one week!

Due to popular request, the Mid Year Intake has been extended by one week. Completed applications are now due on Friday, 9 June. Questions regarding applications can be directed to Wendy Stegman, Interim Registrar, registrar@cenvp.org. Completed applications including application fee and referee reports should be submitted to the CENVP Registrar by 9 June.

Please post signed hard copies of applications to CENVP Registrar, c/- EIANZ, GPO Box 211, Melbourne Vic 3000, Australia.

Digitally scanned copies can be emailed to applications@cenvp.org.

For more information, please direct enquiries to registrar@cenvp.org.



WORLD CLASS ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT OF DEFENCE ACTIVITIES IN THE MARINE PARK

Dr Adam Smith, FEIANZ, FNQ Councillor

This is a new and important joint venture by the Department of Defence and the GBRMPA that changes the way we manage and assess the environmental aspects of military exercises. This strategic approach sensibly balances the need for necessary defence training activities, while ensuring there is no compromise in our commitment to the Australian environment.

Under current arrangements, each time Defence conducts a training exercise in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park in areas such as Shoalwater Bay (near Rockhampton), Halifax Bay (near Townsville) or Cowley Beach (near Cairns) it must be notified under the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act 1975.

The new Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is based on risk assessment, which seeks to address the cumulative environmental requirements covered under the Act, so that routine exercises will not need to be individually referred if they meet agreed requirements. Defence is committed to protecting the environment and is a good

neighbour in environmental matters. This strategic environmental assessment is the first of its kind in the world.

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Chairman Virginia Chadwick said the venture was a positive step forward. "The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority welcomes steps that aim to ensure the Marine Park is protected and preserved for future generations," she said. "Other industry sectors, including tourism and ports, are currently investigating the future benefits of SEA in the Marine Park."

This arrangement will provide both certainty and flexibility when planning Defence exercises, and ensure best practice environmental management of the iconic values of the Marine Park.

The strategic environmental assessment is available at http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/corp_site/management/eim/eia/index.html



A recent Defence training exercise offshore from Cowley Beach was managed in consultation with GBRMPA to minimise risks to the environment.

THANKS FOR YOUR COMMENTS

Thank you to all those who commented on the first edition of *The Environmental Practitioner*. One issue which arose in the comments is whether it is easier to read the newsletter if it is set out in two columns or printed across the full width of the page. The two-column format is probably easier to read from printed copy, but the full page width format may be easier for those reading it on screen.

If you have any strong views on this issue, or any other suggestions or comments, send them to David Hogg at newslettereditor@eianz.org.





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



or

1 300 768 577

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ADVICE FOR CONTRIBUTORS

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

- short articles (up to 2 pages or 1300 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 contributors is newslettereditor@eianz.org.

Deadline for next issue (August): 24 July

CENTRAL OFFICE NEWS

Jessica Jacobs EIANZ Membership Assistant

Jessica was appointed as membership assistant in April. She holds a Diploma in Natural Resource Management and a Bachelor of Conservation Ecology/ Environmental Science.



Prior to joining EIANZ, Jessica was an Education and Administration Officer with Melbourne Water. The education side involved taking tours of the treatment plants and water reserves around Melbourne. Previously she worked as a WaterCare Project Officer for the Southern Grampians Shire Council.

**Come to the EIANZ Conference
2006 in Adelaide.**

See page 3 for further information.

