



THE ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTITIONER

No. 5

March 2007

20 YEARS OLD

The EIANZ Roadshow is coming to a town near you!

2007 marks a significant milestone for the Environment Institute - we are turning 20!

To celebrate, we will be bringing a gift to you. We are holding a one-day event in eight locations in Australia and three in New Zealand. No celebration is complete without a party and ours will finish with a Gala Ball in Sydney.

The first half of each one-day forum will consist of invited keynote speakers and futurists who look at what skills environmental and sustainability professionals will need for the future and what type of activities will they be undertaking in 5, 10, 15 and 20 years time. What will a practitioner's career look like and how will it change with time?

The second half of the day will consist of a professional development program based on the Institute's policies for the four major environmental priorities facing Australia, namely [Water](#), [Energy](#), [Climate Change](#) and [Sustainability](#).

For each priority we will:

- outline the Institute's policy and what this means to professionals, and how they should utilise the policy;
- detail best available techniques and practices for the priority;
- explore the various models and assessment tools; and
- consider future professional requirements and understandings.

Papers addressing these topics are invited from members and other environmental professionals who are locally based. Depending on the number of local speakers, these papers may be presented in up to four parallel sessions.

More details will be coming soon, but we're pleased to announce the dates for you to mark in your diary now.

We are calling for expressions of interest to present at the local component of these events. To submit an abstract on any of the four priority topics above, please email seq@eianz.org by 30 April 2007. For

further information, contact Bill Haylock, phone 07-3239 9700 or e-mail bill.haylock@elp.com.au.

Date	Location
Tuesday 28 August 2007	Townsville
Thursday 30 August 2007	Brisbane
Monday 17 September 2007	Auckland
Wednesday 19 September 2007	Wellington
Friday 21 September 2007	Christchurch
Wednesday 3 October 2007	Melbourne
Friday 5 October 2007	Hobart
Tuesday 9 October 2007	Perth
Thursday 11 October 2007	Adelaide
Tuesday 16 October 2007	Canberra
Friday 19 October 2007	Sydney

We look forward to seeing you later in the year at one of these events.

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THE ADVERSE IMPACTS OF RISK REDUCTION

At the end of 2006, I had the pleasure of participating in a debate hosted by the ACT Division on the topic, *Are environmental impact statements too big?* A summary of this debate is presented on page 7, but in this editorial I would like to elaborate on a couple of points made by other speakers.



an ongoing source of frustration to me for many years through the enforced use of my time and my clients' money to do unnecessary work which contributes nothing towards good environmental outcomes, essentially to appease risk-averse bureaucrats. Invariably those resources could be used more productively in environmental enhancement projects which the client would be quite willing to support.

As I approach retirement age, I frequently ask myself why I bother to keep working under such frustrating conditions, as opposed to doing work which would be more satisfying personally and more productive environmentally. The main thing that keeps me going is the belief that, in association with other like-minded Institute members, I may eventually be able to change this situation for the wider benefit of the environment.

David Hogg
Editor

The first is that large EISs are primarily a reflection of society's growing trend towards risk aversion. This trend has had many adverse social and economic effects, such as rocketing liability insurance premiums, cancellation of popular community events and restrictions on certain recreational activities. In an EIS context, it has led to a situation where environmental professionals, whether working for a proponent or for a review agency, have lost the courage to back their own professional judgement (assuming that they have such skills), and place increasing demands on proponents to fund and present investigations which dig deeper and deeper into the bottomless pit of environmental information.

This may be all very well for large companies which can absorb the associated costs without too much pain, or for government agencies where a responsible attitude towards expenditure of public money often seems to sit low on the priority list. It can, however, hit very hard at small developers with limited funding, particularly when they can see no commonsense reason for going to such extremes.

This problem can arise not only for EIS-scale projects, but also for some small projects where the environmental impacts and risks are clearly very low. In this context, I am aware of anecdotal claims that cost of the environmental studies is up to three times the cost of the project itself.

This situation of professional over-servicing can potentially give the environmental profession a bad name and, I believe, should be addressed through the Institute's Code of Ethics and through best practices associated with the certification of environmental assessment professionals. It would involve a major change in mindset in some of our environmental bureaucracies, and could lead to a resistance by such bureaucracies against certification in relation to their own staff.

The second point is perhaps a more insidious one in that those bureaucracies which promote excessive environmental assessment and documentation are indirectly promoting environmental outcomes which are worse rather than better. This has been

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.

Deadline for next issue (June): 4 May 2007.

The e-mail address for newsletter contributions is newslettereditor@eianz.org.

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.



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

We're just into March and year is well and truly underway, and already there's plenty of progress at the Institute to talk about. But first, and before we all forget, I do hope you all had a pleasant and relaxing summer break. After the family and I enjoyed a traditional Danish Christmas, we had the opportunity to visit Perth and the Margaret River Region. This is a particularly beautiful part of the world with great wines and heaps of surf. Unfortunately we experienced some wet weather – and I thought the drought was everywhere – but rain's a common theme in our camping holidays.

The most exciting news I'd like to share with you is the Institute's 20th Anniversary Roadshow Conference. Later this year we will celebrate twenty years as an Institute with a series of one-day conferences in eleven major venues around Australian and New Zealand. It will be a major undertaking, and a coming of age for the Institute. More details are provided on page 1. We expect there will be something for everyone at these conferences and we will also encourage Members to bring along a colleague to enjoy and participate in the development of environmental profession.

You may have noticed that our CEO, Mark Nan Tie, has moved on. I would like to thank Mark for his input and contribution to the Institute - that we now have a smoothly functioning and efficient Central Office is largely a credit to him. Mark has taken up a senior environmental role with Powercore, and we wish him all the best in his endeavours. At present Geoff Parr-Smith, the Institute's Treasurer, is doing a great job acting as Interim CEO. We hope to make a permanent appointment of CEO within the next few weeks.

Recent work at the Institute has included a number of significant administrative tasks. At present, The Executive and Council are drafting the 2007-2008 corporate plan and budget. All Chapter and Divisional committees, standing committees, working groups and SIS's will be submitting new initiatives for consideration in this processes.

In a new development for the Australasian Journal of Environmental Management, we are about to go online with a number of publication groups (see page 11). This means people from all over the world will have ready access to our Journal, it will attract a higher standard of authors and articles from across the academic publishing community and those publishing in the Journal will have a much wider distribution and readership.

Our Annual Report has been completed and is now on the website. We're very proud of this



document, as it shows a solid financial and operating position for the Institute, as well as presenting an exciting future for the Institute in serving as the peak body for environmental professionals. Many thanks to Geoff Parr-Smith and all in Central Office who helped bring this important document together.

The Council agreed to draft amendments to the Rules of Association to modify some requirements of applications for full membership. These amendments will be addressed by the whole membership at the 2007 Annual General Meeting.

In late February I made a presentation to the Development Assessment Forum, a national group focused on development and infrastructure issues. I was ably supported by both Geoff Parr-Smith and Alex Duerden, the SA Divisional President (see the following article on page 11 for more details).

At this presentation we had our new priorities paper, which is now accessible on the website. The priorities paper brings together the results of your feedback in identifying the major environmental priority issues (in Australia, a New Zealand version is underway now), with the Institute's policies for each priority issue, prepared by the Policy and Practice Committee with member comments. It will also be the basis for the professional development program for the 20th Anniversary Conference.

In overview, the Institute is heading into exciting times. Initiatives that have been a year or more in the planning are now surfacing and taking shape. The pace of work within the Committees is picking up. Real results will be evident for all to see in the coming months. I encourage all members to join in with these initiatives as they take shape.

Bill Haylock



WHAT DO WE TELL THE CHILDREN?

Suzanne Little
Vice President(Australia)

When I was growing up my worry was nuclear bombs. Today's children worry about drought and climate change.

The current fear held in common by most adults is terrorism. All previous generations have had a worry of one sort or another and their fear and loathing has been expressed in similar ways – anxiety. Various worries have been expressed by people in each era, with past generations concerned about over-population (remember zero population growth), communism taking over the free world or some other doomsday prediction.

Psychologists are noticing that the current generation of Australian children has a fear climate change. We are the parents or older siblings of these children and we are well placed to help them through their dread, because the issue of climate change is within our understanding and expertise.

As environmental practitioners, what is the level of our responsibility for presenting facts and scientific context to children – or other people for that matter? It is tempting to advocate our dearly believed argument for one side or the other side of a particular environmental debate. Plenty of us have done it in the past. But now there are lots of advocates to lobby for public recognition of the importance of the natural environment, especially for climate change. So is it time for us to ask ourselves, "Should we be a part of the environmental lobby or part of the environmental scientific investigation?"

While environmental scientists know the difference between facts and theories, how many others know where a fact finishes and a theory starts? Most environmental practitioners understand that scientific 'laws' have been confirmed by evidence and observation over decades. We understand that a theory has a probability of being correct, as more and more observations are compiled to support its premise. We understand the time scale required for Earth processes to cause a consequence, whether the consequence is harmful or not. We have the Precautionary Principle to help us decide in the absence of certainty. In general we have a context for our understanding of how the world works and a moderator on our fears if things go wrong. But children do not.

Here is a snapshot of straightforward facts and observations about climate change, water and energy that you may find useful to breakdown

these huge and frightening concepts into little pieces of knowledge for your children, brothers and sisters.

- Over geological time, the world's climate has changed many times because of natural causes like oceanic currents, continental plate drift, solar flares, volcanoes and variations in the Earth's tilt and orbit around the Sun.
- The time period for natural global warming and global cooling is a very, very long time and the rate of climatic change is slow.
- The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was formed in 1988 and is an international consensus of scientists. They have studied evidence that people's activities over the last hundred years (or so) have caused global warming to happen faster than it did in the past.
- Life on Earth depends on a natural greenhouse effect around the planet which traps the Sun's heat, keeping the planet surface about 30 degrees C warmer than it would be otherwise.
- Carbon dioxide (CO₂) is a greenhouse gas and so are water vapour, methane (CH₄), ozone and nitrous oxide (N₂O).
- There are small volumes of man-made industrial gases that are greenhouse gases too, like perfluorocarbons (PFCs), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) and sulphur hexafluoride (SF₆).
- Burning fossil fuels (like coal, oil and natural gas) releases carbon dioxide from geological carbon that was originally laid down in rocks and reservoirs, millions of years ago.
- A tree uses carbon dioxide as food. That is why trees are called 'greenhouse sinks'.
- Cutting down and killing live forests (like the Amazon Basin Forest) would release carbon, stored in soils and vegetation, into the atmosphere.
- Farms can put methane into the air from agriculture and farm animals.
- The prediction of global warming by a range of temperatures, along with sea level rise over the next century, is done by mathematical modelling that uses measurements of pre-industrial information and estimates of economic growth scenarios for the future.

Australia's pre-eminent water scientist, Peter Cullen, says Australians lack water literacy. He says we don't understand where water comes from, nor the energy used to provide it.



- All water on Earth has been here since the molten planet cooled down enough to become relatively stable.
- Water cannot be created or destroyed on the planet. It just keeps going around in cycles. That is the way Nature operates.
- While the ocean is too salty to drink, seawater evaporates as fresh water and forms clouds that rain, hail and snow onto the ground for us to drink.
- Rivers run to the sea eventually, but can be delayed along the way in water tanks, dams, lakes and underground aquifers.
- Snow is frozen water and can stay frozen for a very long time in cold climates around the world. That is why mass melting of polar ice caps, glaciers and permanent snow cover on mountains can make the sea level rise, eventually.
- Australia's annual water consumption dropped 14% in the four years to 2005, a decrease largely due to household saving and changes to the types of crops grown on farms.
- Untreated urban sewage (dog poo) and untreated effluent (dirty washing water from cleaning a car) flow into rivers and lakes and can affect supplies of drinking water for people.
- The Kwinana desalination plant in WA has been completed and is delivering drinking water to the people of Perth at a cost of \$387 million.
- Coal-generated electricity needs water for making steam and cooling down excess heat at the power station. So when people leave a light on unnecessarily, all night, they are wasting water too because a lot of water was used to generate the electricity.
- Water is not factored into the price of electricity and that is one reason why it is cheap.
- The Queensland Government made a profit of \$140 million selling power to NSW in 2005-2006 but used billions of litres of its State's scarce drinking water to do so.
- The planet has a lot of sea water but only a small percentage is available for us to drink:
 - ◊ 2.5% of the total volume of water on Earth is fresh water
 - ◊ 69% of all freshwater is frozen (in glaciers and permanent snow cover)
 - ◊ Large quantities of water are held in underground aquifers
 - ◊ 0.26% of fresh water is in rivers and lakes.
- The natural circulation (recharge) time for water is:
 - ◊ 16 days in a river
 - ◊ 17 years in a lake
 - ◊ 1,400 years in a groundwater reservoir.
- Groundwater recharges so slowly that it is regarded as a non-renewable resource. The annual global recharge rate of groundwater is 2,000 cubic kilometres per year. So this means that the people of the world cannot consume groundwater faster than that rate, or otherwise we would consume it too fast for groundwater to recharge.
- Renewable sources of energy are solar photovoltaic cells, wind turbines, tidal power and hydro-electric power.
- Non-renewable sources of energy are coal, gas, oil, derivatives of petroleum and nuclear energy.

2005/2006 ANNUAL REPORT NOW AVAILABLE

The Institute has produced its 2005/06 Annual Report, the first such report since 2001. The 40 page report covers all the activities of the Institute, its Chapters and Divisions, Committees and Working Groups.

Compilation of the report was a major task. Separate reports were obtained from all parts of the Institute, then combined and entered into the consolidated document. Compilation and editing were major tasks for CEO Mark Nan Tie, Office Manager Denise Sheard and Interim CEO Geoff Parr-Smith.

Although labelled an 'Annual Report' the document, produced in February 2007, covers activities in the period from July 2005 to December 2006. In his President's contribution, Bill Haylock commented 'This Annual Report describes our achievements over the past 18 months and gives recognition to the many Institute members who have contributed time, effort and

skills to make those achievements happen. The report mentions some 132 Institute members by name, together with 11 staff (in 7 positions). They form the active workforce of the Institute, and I hope this number will grow in the coming year. My thanks to you all.'

The Annual Report has been produced to aid the Institute's marketing efforts, particularly in areas such as obtaining grants and sponsorships. Hard (paper) copies of the report have been sent to all Chapters, Divisions and Committees and further copies are available if they are needed for marketing purposes. If any member would like to obtain a hard copy, please contact Denise Sheard in Central Office.

The report will be available on the Institute's website shortly

Geoff Parr-Smith
Interim CEO



INTERIM CEO GETS OUT OF MELBOURNE: South East Queensland Division Annual Retreat

Interim CEO Geoff Parr-Smith has made his first trip for the Institute out of Melbourne, to attend the SEQ Division's annual planning meeting and retreat, held on Saturday and Sunday 17-18 February 2007. The retreat held at Rimfall Farm, south of Beaudesert and close to the New South Wales border, provided an opportunity for the Division's Committee to engage in an extended discussion of its operations and to plan activities for the coming one to two years. Extensive informal discussions of Institute affairs accompanied a thoroughly enjoyable and satisfying social weekend.

Geoff's presence at an interstate Divisional event marks a major departure in the CEO role. For the past few years the CEO (Aaron Harvey, then Mark Nan Tie) have concentrated upon the operation of the Institute's Central Office. With Mark's departure to greener pastures in January 2007 and Central Office now in a healthy condition, the CEO role has been reviewed. It has been rewritten to have a much wider view across the Institute, concentrating on Divisional liaison, the work of the Institute's Committees, and external affairs.

'The retreat weekend has been invaluable for me' said Geoff. 'SEQ has the strongest Divisional operation within the Institute and its level of activity and service provision to members is something that other Divisions might aspire to. That said, the Division has its own issues and

challenges, similar to most other Divisions and the Institute as a whole. Issues such as workload management, volunteer burnout, spreading the load among Division members, coordinating activities, interacting with Central Office and developing new initiatives while maintaining current effective activities affect us all. Balancing workload between volunteer Committee members and paid staff is also an issue affecting increasing numbers of Divisions, as more staff are employed.'

'The weekend has raised many issues I must address from my position at the centre of the organisation. Key among them is the quality of the website, an urgent priority. I've come away with a range of useful ideas, both of the central operation and as ideas I may be able to carry to other Divisions.'

Geoff has also used the opportunity for extended face-to-face discussions with the Institute President Bill Haylock in Brisbane. Together Bill and Geoff subsequently visited the South Australian Division (see page 11) and will be visiting other Divisions whenever suitable opportunities arise.

Watch out for a report from the Division on the weekend retreat, in the SEQ section of the website.

Geoff Parr-Smith

MAKE A DIFFERENCE: Join the Membership Promotion Committee

Membership is the lifeblood of the EIANZ. By joining the Membership Promotion Committee, you can help to make the EIANZ a more viable and effective organisation. The Committee's role is to promote the Institute within the environment profession with a view to increasing membership. We are the marketing arm that assists Divisions/Chapters and Central Office with materials and ideas to help them recruit new members and grow the Institute. We are approaching our task on three fronts, firstly, through revising the EIANZ brochure and developing a powerpoint presentation and other materials that Divisions can use in their membership promotion activities. Secondly, we will be surveying members on the reasons they join the EIANZ and whether their needs are being met so that we can recommend to Council how membership of the EIANZ could be made even more attractive. Thirdly, we will be looking at our current membership split and target markets to determine where we can best target our marketing. This is a committee that will thrive on innovation and ideas from left-field.

Your investment? An hour a fortnight on average would make a big difference. Most of our business will be done by email but we will hold teleconferences every few months. Representatives are needed from Tasmania, NSW, South Australia, Victoria and NT.

If you would like to join the committee or want further information, please contact Lachlan.Wilkinson@environment.gov.au (ph. 02 - 6274 2440).



DIVISION NEWS

ACT Division

The Great Debate: Are environmental impact statements too big?

At the ACT Division's Christmas function, two teams of EIANZ members, highly experienced in impact assessment, debated the question that occupies the mind of anyone who has to read an EIS – are they too big?

For the affirmative side, David Hogg, went back to the purpose of an EIS – to assist decision makers, and to disseminate information so that the public can understand and comment on the impacts of a project. He argued that most EISs are now too big to fulfil this purpose. David reminisced about the days when it was considered that an EIS should be able to be read by an informed layperson in an evening.

On the negative side, Hugh Swinbourne described an EIS as a 'demonstration of progress' and a 'building block in the castle of knowledge'. 'Thank God for the EIS!', he proclaimed. He argued that an EIS needs to be structured to provide for different levels of information to suit the needs of different readers. 'Who decides what the big issues are?', he asked. Bureaucrats and proponents focusing the EIS on what they saw as the key issues represented control of information.

John Ashe again took up the theme of EISs being too big to meet the objectives of environmental impact assessment. He described them as being too expensive, dragging out the assessment process, straining the capacity of assessing agencies and therefore defeating the objective of providing sound advice to government, and making it difficult for the public to engage, creating cynicism that they are too large on purpose. He noted that the EIS took off in the 1960s at the same time as the hamburger. Both

have become supersized creating serious health problems. Both needed less fat.

Kathy Coghlan asked another eternal question: 'Does size matter?'. She argued that consultants don't try to write big documents but size is determined by the issues. An EIS has many different users who want to see their issues addressed. Size doesn't matter, she argued. It's about having the structure right so the reader can find the information they are seeking.

Chris Murphy argued that environmental impact assessment is engaged in an arms race with bigger and bigger documents. He identified the culprits: consultants – 'mercenaries of information', bureaucrats – 'timid arse-covering creatures', and the schizophrenic public. Just as proponents of 'intelligent design' use gaps in information to discredit evolution, NIMBYs use gaps in information to discredit a project. He questioned what provided the greatest environmental gain – spending \$10m on an EIS or \$5m on environmental protection works.

The final speaker for the negative side, Mark Butz argued it was all about risk. Environmental impact assessment was about someone doing something with resources we think are important. While the affirmative side argued that 'big is bewildering' for the 'lazy, ignorant unwashed public', he considered 'big is beautiful'. It was a case of the need to know versus the right to know. Dumbing down documents to make them shorter was not the solution.

The winner was to be decided by popular acclaim but the result was indecisive. With such eloquent arguments on both sides, the moderator, Gerard Early, was in a dilemma. Gerard conceded an aversion to large EISs and decided to give it to the affirmative team. But the result didn't really matter. Everyone agreed it had been an entertaining evening and the debate continued over drinks.

Lachlan Wilkinson

EIANZ FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS

One of our SEQ Division members, Fiona Berry, is spending some time in the USA in the near future, and has offered to be an 'EIANZ Foreign Correspondent' in portraying the stay of play of the environment industry in the USA/California for the interest of Australian and New Zealand readers.

The Environmental Practitioner welcomes contributions from members working in overseas environments where physical, social and political conditions may be significantly different from the Australia-New Zealand scene. Please send contributions to newslettereditor@eianz.org.



Professional Indemnity for Environmental Consultants



Can you afford not to get a quote from the EIANZ Professional Indemnity Facility?

In your role, as an environment professional, the need for insurance protection has never been more important.

Marsh and the EIANZ understand your industry needs and have tailored an insurance program to protect you.

Marsh, in consultation with EIANZ, has developed a professional indemnity insurance facility designed for environmental professionals that addresses the specific risks that you are exposed to and recognises and understands your business.

Some of the key features of this facility are:

- A competitive insurance product in: premiums, deductible, endorsements and exclusions
- The facility recognises the role that the CEnvP initiative plays in risk management within the businesses.
- A facility which is able to provide cover to the majority of environmental businesses with EIANZ
- A streamlined application/proposal form
- An effective administration process that promptly deals with enquiries, renewals and claims through a dedicated team
- Premium can be paid in monthly instalments using our Premium Finance facility

If you would like to receive a quote through the EIANZ PI facility for your Professional Indemnity Insurance or for further information:

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03 9603 2190

or email

john.delves@marsh.com

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This information is general advice only and takes no account of your individual circumstances, needs or financial objectives. We recommend that you contact us to obtain a copy of the policy wording in order to understand whether the cover provided is appropriate for you.

Please note that EIANZ receives a financial benefit from the sale of this insurance product, enabling them to continue to develop and provide further services to their members.

Alternatively, if you would like to receive a quote when your insurance cover falls due, complete the information below and Fax John Delves on 03 9603 2753.

Name of Company: _____

Contact Person: _____

Address: _____

Fax: _____ Mobile: _____

email: _____

Best time to call you _____ am/pm Renewal Date of your Current PI Policy / /



**ENVIRONMENT
INSTITUTE OF
AUSTRALIA AND
NEW ZEALAND**



MEMBERSHIP FEES INCREASE BY CPI

The Council has agreed to an increase in membership fees for 2007/08 matching the consumer price index.

The Institute last amended its membership fees in 2004/05. Since then, the CPI has risen 9.5% over three years. If this continues over the current year, the CPI increase applicable to next year's membership would be 12.7%. The new scale of fees adopted by the Council is based on this figure.

The increased membership fee is expected to raise a further approximately \$A34,200 in a full year, based on current membership numbers.

The decision to increase fees was not taken lightly. The Council considered a policy paper from the Treasurer at its September meeting, and a modified paper with a number of fee options was circulated to Divisions for comment, prior to preparing the recommendation for the CPI increase.

Commenting on the fee increases in the options paper, Treasurer Geoff Parr-Smith noted that, based on income from memberships alone, it would have been extremely difficult to balance this year's budget, and little or no action could have been taken on many of the initiatives in our Corporate Plan.

'This year's budget was saved by income from sponsorship and the Professional Indemnity Scheme. Decisions to increase staff over the last two years (increased CEO hours, Membership Officer approaching full time; Research Officer) have placed stress on the budget. Salaries costs will increase with CPI. Salaries and other base operating costs should be funded from memberships. It is unwise to rely on business initiatives or sponsorship for base costs. Many of our Corporate Plan initiatives are membership services which are not self funding. They represent legitimate growth for the Institute, but finances are needed to support them.'

The Institute's membership fees appear to be among the lowest of the professional institutes in Australia. This reflects the relative size of the Institute and its small staff numbers. However, fees are a complex issue for this Institute, because of the diversity of membership. The fee presents little problem for members in the corporate and consultancy sectors, where it can be absorbed as a business cost and where employers will pay the fee on behalf of their staff. It is a positive incentive to members who can take advantage of the Professional Indemnity Insurance scheme. However, for members in the public and municipal sectors, who are likely to pay the fee privately, it is a substantial outlay. The concerns of these members was a major issue in not increasing the fee of up the CPI.

The fee increases agreed to by the Council are:

Category	2007/08 Membership fees \$ ^a
Application	30
Student	45
Retired	100
Associate	100
Member	210 ^b
Fellow	335 ^b
Journal (where attached to another membership category) ^c	50

^a Inclusive of GST

^b Includes AJEM subscription

^c Optional subscription for Student, Retired or Associate members

New Zealand Chapter membership fees will increase *pro rata*.

Geoff Parr-Smith
Treasurer

IUCN NEWS

The Institute is a member of the Australian Committee of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (ACIUCN). Our representative is Lorraine Cairnes (NSW Division).

The IUCN parent body publishes *World Conservation* which can be viewed on line at www.iucn.org/worldconservation. The latest issue, which has recently been published, looks at accountability and the environment in the 21st Century.

Also available is the Members Portal Newsletter, which invites members to provide comments, suggestions and enquiries. This is an exclusive space for IUCN members. Further details are on the 'Members' page of the IUCN website.



CENTRAL OFFICE NEWS

NEW RESEARCH OFFICER CONTRIBUTES TO POLICIES

The Institute has appointed a new Research Officer, Ms Vanessa McKenzie, in Central Office, to assist the CEO in preparation of funding submissions and other documents. The position is temporary until full ratification by the Council is obtained. Vanessa is occupying a position for three days per week — on a fourth day she is Projects Officer or the Victorian Division.

Vanessa is currently studying part-time at RMIT in the Masters of Environmental Studies program. She has a Bachelor of Science in Zoology from Melbourne University and has worked previously with Parks Victoria as a Ranger at Mount Buffalo National Park.

Commenting on the appointment, Interim CEO Geoff Parr-Smith said 'Having Vanessa available has been a godsend. My first three weeks were frantic, finalising the Annual Report and preparing the new policy summary paper for the DAF meeting in Adelaide' (see report on page 11). 'Vanessa's help has been invaluable.' Vanessa is already contributing to the 20th Annual Roadshow Committee and represents the CEO on the Student and Young Professionals Committee.

The Policies Summary paper has been a major initiative of the External Relations and the Policy and Practice Committees. In a recent survey Institute members nominated their top policy priorities — water, climate change, sustainability and energy (see *The Environment Practitioner*, December 2006). The Institute has prepared policy papers on each of these topics, which are available in draft form on the website.

The Policies Summary paper repackaged the key messages from these policies into a sharply written six page statement, clarifying the Institute's position on these central matters. The paper will be available on the website shortly, in a form suitable for download and printing.

The paper is the start of a major thrust in the professional development area. The key policies will form the basis for much of the Institute's professional development initiatives over the coming year, as best practice statements and other documentation is rolled out to coincide with the 20th Annual Roadshow and the International Association of Impact Assessment (IAIA) conference in Perth in April 2008. Vanessa is available for Victorian Division matters on Mondays, and for Research Officer matters on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Contact research@eianz.org.

Geoff Parr-Smith
Interim CEO

POSITION AVAILABLE ACCOUNTANT TO EIANZ, MELBOURNE

- To perform accounting functions within EIANZ's Central Office
- Casual
- About eight hours per month, with occasional peaks (budget, audit etc)
- Remuneration negotiable
- Qualified or Certified Accountant required
- Must know MYOB thoroughly
- Good communication skills essential

Do you have an invaluable accounts person assisting you in your business practice in Melbourne? We need a person of this nature to perform accounting tasks in Central Office, assisting both the Office Manager and the Treasurer.

This position has arisen as a result of the resignation of now current Accountant, Kerrie McMahan, who is rationalising her time to devote more time to family duties. Kerrie has been of enormous assistance to us over the past two years and her presence will be greatly missed.

If you know the person who would meet our requirements, please ask them to send a short resume to Denise Sheard, Office Manager. Enquiries to Denise on (03) 9654 7473. A full list of the duties that Kerrie was undertaking is being prepared.

Geoff Parr-Smith
Interim CEO

GREEN PRINTING

An oft-quoted saying is 'If you talk the talk, walk the walk' and EIANZ is doing that with our recent change to a new printer.

The Institute chose Print Bound for its recent printing needs. Print Bound has been operating for 14 years, and has been awarded for its leading role in print communication with respect and care for the environment. Our new Annual Report and all our stationery is now printed using the 'Clean Green Print' process.

From the paper Print Bound recommend to clients, through to all the materials and processes used in the printing as well as the way the business is run, their whole philosophy is towards supporting a healthier and sustainable environment for the future.

For more information on Clean Green Print, go to www.cleangreenprint.com.

Denise Sheard



PRESIDENT AND CEO VISIT ADELAIDE FOR DAF MEETING

Institute President Bill Haylock and Interim CEO Geoff Parr-Smith visited Adelaide on Friday 23 February 2007 to present the Institute's credentials to a meeting of the Development Assessment Forum (DAF). Alex Duerden, President, South Australian Division, also attended the presentation.

Formed in 1998, DAF is an Australia-wide coordinating body focused on improving the development assessment system in Australia – the planning and assessment processes that lead to the approval of all types of developments (see DAF's website, www.daf.gov.au). Sponsored through the Federal Department of Transport and Regional Services, DAF has representatives from relevant Federal, State and Territory Governments, state-based local government associations, industry associations and relevant professional institutes.

Following discussions between Bill Haylock and Sue Holliday, National President, Planning Institute of Australia, who is also the chair of DAF, EIANZ was invited to make a presentation to the Forum, with a view to the Institute's possible future membership.

Bill's presentation explained the role and membership of the Institute, and stressed our activity on development assessment, which is taking place through the Impact Assessment Special Interest Section (IA-SIS). This is a lead up to our involvement in the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA) in Perth in May 2008.

Commenting on the presentation, Bill Haylock said: "This is the first chance we have had to present our credentials to DAF, who were not aware of the Institute's existence. Our work on impact assessment is highly relevant to DAF's objectives and the forum is considering the possibility of certification schemes for practitioners, something the Institute has well advanced through its Certification Program. The forum is also an excellent opportunity for us to develop interactions and liaisons with other professional Institutes, which must strengthen our activities and profile in the medium to long term."

The Forum was also the first opportunity to unveil the Institute's new policy priorities paper, entitled *Environmental Practitioners Define Australia's Top Priorities*, the work of the External Relations Committee chair Justin Sherrard, Geoff Parr-Smith and Vanessa McKenzie. This paper will be available on the website shortly. This was also the first exposure for our newly produced Annual Report, which has since been distributed to Divisions and Committees, and will soon appear on the website.

Following the presentation, Bill and Geoff met with members of the South Australian Divisional Committee over lunch, a rare opportunity to meet face-to-face and to discuss the Division's recently prepared 2007-08 business plan. The Division is presenting regular forums and providing a valuable service to our South Australian members (see the Division web page for details).

Geoff Parr-Smith,
Interim CEO

AJEM GOES ELECTRONIC

The Institute has recently been negotiating with several organisations with respect to electronic publication of the *Australasian Journal of Environmental Management*. Such arrangements increase the profile of the Journal internationally and allow non-subscribers to access specific articles for a fee, part of which is returned to the Institute as a royalty. The enhanced profile is expected to make publication in the Journal more attractive to prospective authors.

Such arrangements do not affect the way in which EIANZ members or existing external subscribers receive the Journal, which will continue to be sent in printed form. All arrangements are being negotiated on a non-exclusive basis to protect the option of placing the Journal also on the Institute website in the future.

The first priority for electronic publication is current or recent issues but back issues will be added progressively as resources permit.

An agreement has been concluded with RMIT Publishing, which operates the *Informit* e-Library. Another agreement is currently being finalised with the major international publisher, EBSCO Publishing. An approach has been received also from a third electronic publisher.

David Hogg



EIANZ 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: Justin Sherrard

Policy and Practice Committee: Richard Hoy

Journal Editorial Committee (Editors): Prof.

Helen Ross, Bill Carter

Membership Promotion Committee: Lachlan Wilkinson

Professional Development Committee: Aaron Harvey

Certification Board: Nigel Murphy

CHAPTER AND DIVISION PRESIDENTS

Australian Capital Territory: Richard Sharp

Far North Queensland: Bruce Wannan (Acting)

New South Wales: Anita Mitchell

New Zealand: Dr Judith Roper-Lindsay

Northern Territory: Vacant (Bill Low and Noel Preece acting)

South Australia: Alex Duerden

South East Queensland: Claire Gronow

Tasmania: Dr John Todd

Victoria: Tiernan Humphrys

Western Australia: Scott Bird

CENTRAL OFFICE

Interim CEO: Geoff Parr-Smith

Office Manager: Denise Sheard

Membership Administrator: Debbie Howell

Research Officer: Vanessa McKenzie

POSITION AVAILABLE SPONSORSHIP SERVICES PROVIDER

The Institute is seeking to fill the position of Sponsorship Services Provider following the resignation of Matthew Warnken who has held the position since it was created in 2005.

This is a paid position with hours and remuneration subject to negotiation, and requires appropriate experience in sponsorship and marketing, as well as an understanding of the operation of the Institute. The duties of the position are as follows:

- identify potential sponsors or benefactors which could provide financial or in-kind support to the Institute and which share the high standard of integrity and reputation that is promoted by the Institute as the leading professional organisation for environmental practitioners in Australia and New Zealand;
- identify feasible services that are (or can be) provided by the Institute that will be useful to potential sponsors or benefactors for mutual benefit;
- review the Institute's communications strategy, sponsorship policies and documents, and income-generating methods for sponsorship and advertising and communicate recommendations to the various EIANZ Standing Committees for their actions, as required;
- report progress regularly to the Sponsorship Subcommittee comprising of members of the Institute with the Treasurer as ex officio;
- develop an annual Institute sponsorship plan consistent with the Institute's capacity to provide services to its members; and
- implement the plan through sponsorship / benefactors and advertising covering the scope of EIANZ website, quarterly newsletter, bulletins, journal, employment service, professional indemnity insurance, conferences, professional development programs, and outputs from EIANZ Standing Committees such as the Policy and Practice Committee and Special Interest Sections.

Expressions of interest, including a statement of experience in sponsorship and marketing, should be forwarded to the Interim CEO, Geoff Parr-Smith at the Central Office, by **Monday 16 April 2007**. For further information please contact Geoff on 0409 257 578.

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