

# THE ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTITIONER

ISSN 1834-7738

No. 15

September 2009

## EIANZ ANNUAL CONFERENCE IS LESS THAN A MONTH AWAY!

Policy to Practice - Achieving better environmental outcomes is shaping up to be the premier event of the year for policy makers and environmental practitioners alike.

The event, as you already know will run over two days on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October at the Hotel Realm in Canberra. A summary of the program follows:

Opening address by Dr Maxine Cooper, ACT Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment. Dr Cooper's address is entitled 'An Independent Eye and Voice'.

### Morning Sessions – Day 1

- New approaches in environmental policy
- Who are environmental practitioners?
- Developments in water, NRM and sustainability policy
- Are you skilled in environmental conflict resolution?

### Afternoon Sessions – Day 1

- Developments in biodiversity conservation, and consultation practice
- So you want to Become a Certified Ecological Practitioner
- Developments in climate change policy and environmental impact assessment
- What is ecological impact assessment?



### Morning Sessions – Day 2

- Environmental policies delivering productive landscapes. (Parts 1 & 2)
- Tomorrow's environmental professionals.
- Do you understand the difference between carbon taxes and carbon trading?

### Afternoon Sessions – Day 2

- The practical application of environmental policy. (Parts 1 & 2)
- Do you have the skills to turn climate change adaptation into action?
- How well do you know the EPBC Act?

Sessions are filling fast. If you work in the practical application and implementation of environmental policy, this event is for you!! For a detailed program and to register, log on to [www.conlog.com.au/eianz](http://www.conlog.com.au/eianz).

Accommodation can be booked direct with the hotel at [www.hotelrealm.com.au](http://www.hotelrealm.com.au).

EIANZ Benefactor



## In this issue

Editorial: See the whole picture	2
From the President's desk	3
New appointments	3
EIANZ Annual Gala Dinner and Merit Awards Presentation	4
Conference sponsorship opportunities	4
An introduction to Chris Darwin	5
Special Interest Section for Impact Assessment	7
Next CEnvP intake	7
Closing comments	7
New members	8
EIANZ directory	8

## Editorial

# SEEING THE WHOLE PICTURE

The rise of the environment movement in the late 1960s and the subsequent introduction of environmental impact assessment (EIA) in the 1970s were the result of a fundamental weakness in decision-making. Specifically, decisions were often being based on a limited range of functional and economic considerations without due regard for the environmental and social consequences. Sometimes those decisions were made in ignorance of those consequences, but in other cases the consequences were known but were deliberately given low priority.

The introduction of EIA procedures was intended to address both those circumstances. In doing so, those procedures adopted a broad definition of the environment. For example, the Commonwealth *Environment Protection Impact of Proposals Act 1974* defined 'environment' as 'all aspects of the surroundings of man, whether affecting him as an individual or in his social groupings'. A similar definition (sometimes presented in more gender-neutral language) found its way into other EIA legislation that followed, as well as into the Rules of the Environment Institute of Australia, when it was formed in 1987. Some more recent environmental legislation has been more specific in spelling out the components of the environment which almost universally reflects a very broad range of biophysical and socio-economic factors.

I find it disappointing therefore that so many people who should know better, including some environmental practitioners, tend to see the environment from a narrow perspective, focused particularly on its biophysical components. While these are often important, there are many situations where they are secondary to the social aspects. Many issues which are presented as biodiversity issues are fundamentally social issues, dressed up in biodiversity terms to give them a perceived air of respectability and, in some cases, greater legislative backing.

I was once asked by members of local resident action group if I could carry out an ecological survey of an area of bushland near their homes which they were trying to save from development, and to find a threatened species so that they could stop the development. Being familiar with the area, I told them that the chances of finding their threatened species was very low, that they would be wasting their money and my time, and that they should argue their case on the grounds of loss of residential amenity. I don't know if they found someone else to do the survey, but the



development proposal was eventually dropped – because of its impact on residential amenity.

In terms of balanced decision-making, the pendulum seems to have swung to its other extreme, with issues such as threatened species, archaeological sites and significant trees sometimes dominating decision-making in ways which defy commonsense. This is fundamentally no different from the

flawed decision-making process that gave rise to the current environmental profession several decades ago. A common factor which often elevates these issues beyond a reasonable level of importance is that they are backed by legislation and often an excessive level of technical and administrative procedures.

It is my observation that environmental practitioners who earn the highest level of professional respect are those who can appreciate the environment in its broadest sense and can see the world from a broad range of perspectives. This does not prevent people from specialising in their own favourite components of the environment, provided that they realise their role is sometimes a minor one and that their work is not always pivotal in the decision-making process.

David Hogg  
Editor

## 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 (December):  
27 November 2009.

The e-mail address for newsletter contributions is [communications-editor@eianz.org](mailto:communications-editor@eianz.org).



## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

For all of our volunteers, the Committee members, Conference organisers and Conveners of Special Interest Sections it has been a busy few months. Divisional AGMs have been conducted and an exciting new wave of volunteers have put their hands up to help with the Institute's activities. A number of other committees have been carefully preparing new initiatives for the members' consideration at the AGM and the associated Council meeting. A few other Committees and members have been energetically developing programs for delivery at the 2009 Annual Conference. All of these events are being held in Canberra from 19 to 21 October.

It will be a busy three days where we will discuss the results and suggestions from the recent membership survey. We had a response of nearly 20%, which has provide the Council with much food for thought with respect of the types of membership services you desire. We will also discuss and address the requirements for certification programs for ecologists and for those involved in impact assessment. We are aiming to forward recommendations from the Conference and Council to the Certification Board for the creation of new practice levels of certification.

We will also look at proposals for improving the management of the Council and Institute as a whole to improve the range and delivery of services to the membership. At the AGM we will elect a new Executive. Most positions have received only one nomination, however, as we go to print, there is an election for the Vice President – Australia. As many of you know I am standing for another two year term as President. At the end of that term I intend to stand down.

The past three months has again seen a large number of new members join the Institute. I would like to welcome all of these new members and encourage you to participate in our various Chapter and Divisional Committees, Standing Committees and Special Interest Sections. It is these committees and groups which are helping to set the future standards of professional environmental practice.

Late last month we were invited to meet again with the EPBC Act Review Panel to discuss our program for certification of environmental practitioners and how it could help to improve the standards of environmental assessment and documentation as required under the EPBC Act.



As mentioned in the last newsletter I want to encourage all members and their work colleagues to consider attending the upcoming Annual Conference in Canberra. Please review the program on the Conference website. It is an exciting couple of days packed with a wide variety of professional development sessions.

At this years Merit Awards Dinner we will see two new awards, both for Excellence in Professional Practice.

One is for a small to medium-size company and the other for a large company (more than 100 employees). I believe that it is important for us to recognise excellence in practice, as it helps us define the appropriate standards of practice. By now you should all have received a nomination form for all of the Institutes Merit Awards.

I look forward to meeting with you at the AGM, Conference or Merit Awards Dinner.

Bill Haylock

### NEW APPOINTMENTS

There have been recent changes to some Standing Committee and Special Interest Section positions as follows:

Chair, Membership  
Promotion Committee: Belinda van Eyndhoven

Chair, Professional  
Development Committee: David Hogg

Convenor,  
Impact Assessment SIS: Lachlan Wilkinson

During the recent member survey, a large number of members indicated an interest in becoming actively involved with one or more of the Standing Committees. This is an encouraging sign for the Institute. Those who have offered can expect further follow-up as the information from the survey is processed and circulated to Committee Chairs.

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.



## EIANZ Annual Gala Dinner and Merit Awards Presentation

The Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand (EIANZ) is delighted to announce that its Annual Gala Dinner and Awards Evening will be held on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> October, 2009 at Hotel Realm in Canberra, commencing at 7.30pm. The Dinner is the highlight in the Institute's annual calendar of events.

Our keynote speaker for the evening is Chris Darwin – great-great grandson of famed naturalist Charles Darwin. In the year marking the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his famous forebear's birth, Chris will provide insights into Charles Darwin, his life, his family, and the family's work to carry on his legacy. Our MC for the evening will be legendary Ironman Trevor Hendy.

The EIANZ has called for nominations for the following 7 prestigious awards to be presented at this year's Dinner:

- The Simon Molesworth & Mary Lou Morris Awards for Outstanding Service to the Institute;
- The Tor Hundloe Award for the Young Environmental Professional of the Year;
- The Eric Anderson Award for the Outstanding Article of 2008/09 in the *Australasian Journal of Environmental Practice*;
- The Certified Environmental Practitioner of the Year;
- The EIANZ Award for Excellence in Professional Practice by a Small to Medium Company (less than 100 employees); and
- The EIANZ Award for Excellence in Professional Practice by a Large Company (more than 100 employees);

Nomination Forms for these awards can be found at [www.eianz.org/news/id/61](http://www.eianz.org/news/id/61) Nominations close on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2009.

The Dinner is an opportunity for the industry, and Institute members in particular, to meet and recognise the highlights and successes of the past year, and recognise excellence in environmental practice from across Australia and New Zealand.

Dinner tickets are \$180 each for members and \$195 for non-members. To book go to [www.conlog.com.au/eianz/awards.html](http://www.conlog.com.au/eianz/awards.html)

Join us for an exceptional evening of celebration, industry recognition, and socialising with friends and colleagues!



### 2009 EIANZ CONFERENCE: POLICY TO PRACTICE SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

Sponsorship opportunities for the Annual Conference are still available, especially for exhibitors, who each receive:

- Trestle table exhibit with signage
- Catering for staff attending exhibit (limit two)
- Article on the Institute Website Conference Page with a hotlink to your website
- Announcement of conference participation with specific details, on the Institute's newly created Facebook page
- Features in article in *The Environmental Practitioner*
- Advertising material in each conference satchel

If you would like to be a sponsor, contact Renae Shepherd on 02–6281 6624 or [renae@conlog.com.au](mailto:renae@conlog.com.au) for more information.



## AN INTRODUCTION TO CHRIS DARWIN

The EIANZ 2009 Merit and Service Award Gala Dinner will be held on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30pm in the Ballroom at the Hotel Realm, Canberra. We are very excited to announce as our key note speaker for the evening, Chris Darwin – great-great grandson of Charles Darwin.



Chris Darwin

Photo by Gary Medicott courtesy of The Age

When Charles Darwin published *The Origin of Species* in 1859, he changed the way that people thought about life on Earth. His great great grandson, Chris, who now lives in Australia, is now focusing his own efforts and resources on something he thinks his famous ancestor would have approved of - saving species from extinction.

Charles Darwin was part of a British scientific expedition that sailed the world, aboard the HMS Beagle, examining plants and animals. What he witnessed on this journey - particularly on the Galapagos Islands off South America - convinced him that life had evolved over millions of years via natural selection.

His theory caused a scientific revolution and religious outrage, but before he died in 1882, he wrote: "I feel no remorse from having committed any great sin, but have often and often regretted that I have not done more direct good to my fellow creatures." Chris Darwin says those words inspired him to use his inheritance to fulfil his great great grandfather's last wish.

Recently he finished a year's voluntary work with the Australian Bush Heritage Fund during which he donated a significant sum to help the fund buy a 65,000-hectare property, now called the Charles Darwin Reserve, which will help preserve plant species in a part of the world Chris calls a 'hotspot' for biodiversity.

He believes the Earth is going through a periodic 'mass extinction spasm' that will lead to the disappearance of more than 65 per cent of species.

But an interest in preserving nature is not the only similarity between Chris and his famous ancestor - both found the Blue Mountains to be the most beautiful part of Australia. In 1836, when the Beagle visited Sydney, Darwin journeyed to Wentworth Falls, where a walk to the edge of the cliffs still carries his name.

What he witnessed, he later wrote, was a '*view exceedingly well worth the visit. A sound of pouring water reached us, the cause of which was soon explained by one of the more stupendous scenes I ever beheld, bursting unexpectedly upon us. Suddenly we found ourselves standing on the brink of a tremendous precipice.*'

Chris found the same place 'unbelievably beautiful' and worked as a rock climbing guide in Katoomba for 10 years until 2001. "It was the best job I'd ever done," he said. Chris Darwin is an engaging and articulate speaker. We hope you can join us for this most interesting of events.



## 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:**

**Call John Delves on**

**03 9603 2190**

**or email**

**john.delves@marsh.com**

**Marsh Pty Ltd**  
ABN 86 004 651 512

Marsh. The world's #1 Risk Specialists™

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 this 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**



# SPECIAL INTEREST SECTION FOR IMPACT ASSESSMENT

## Lachlan Wilkinson

The EIANZ Special Interest Section for Impact Assessment has been revived and is currently considering criteria for certification of impact assessment practitioners as part of the Certified Environmental Practitioner (CEnvP) scheme. Those applying for certification would need to meet all the requirements to be recognised as a CEnvP (if they do not already have this qualification) and an additional set aimed at demonstrating a high level of proficiency in impact assessment. The draft criteria cover required experience, understanding of impact assessment methods, interpersonal skills needed for effective and efficient impact assessment, capabilities in undertaking impact assessment, and commitment to best practice and professional development.

Other early priorities for the SIS will be to develop a proposal for affiliation with the International Association for Impact Assessment, and to finalise the EIANZ position paper on environmental impact assessment.

The formal mandate of the SIS is to seek to achieve good environmental outcomes by:

- (i) promoting ethical and competent practice of impact assessment by environmental practitioners through developing tools, competencies and a certification process; and
- (ii) developing and promoting within the wider community practices which support or extend impact assessment in terms of institutional and decision-making frameworks, processes, standards, competencies and tools.

The SIS is looking for new members. If you would like to be involved, would like more information, or simply wish to be on the email list, please contact Lachlan.Wilkinson@environment.gov.au or call (02) 6274 2440.

## NEXT CEnvP INTAKE

The next intake of applications to become a Certified Environmental Practitioner will close on Friday 18 December 2009.

Completed applications including the application fee and referee reports should be submitted to the CEnvP Registrar prior to the closing date. EIANZ members and fellows receive significant discounts on application and annual certification fees.

Further information is available from the CEnvP website at [www.cenvp.org](http://www.cenvp.org).

Editor: David Hogg (until 20 October 2009)  
Email: [communications-editor@eianz.org](mailto:communications-editor@eianz.org)  
Phone: 02-6251 3885  
+ 612-6251 3885 (international)  
Fax: 02-6253 1574

EIANZ Central Office  
GPO Box 211, Melbourne, Vic 3001  
Email: [office@eianz.org](mailto:office@eianz.org)  
Phone: 03-9654 7473  
+613-9654 7473 (international)  
Fax: 03-9650 1242  
Website: [www.eianz.org](http://www.eianz.org)

## CLOSING COMMENTS

This is the last issue of *The Environmental Practitioner* that I will be editing. I have appreciated the positive feedback received from members over the past four years, and the level of interest shown in the newsletter, as evidenced by website hits on the days when it has been released.

One disappointing aspect of the newsletter, however, has been the limited number of contributions from members. I am sure that there are many members with much to contribute who could share their views with the wider membership through this medium, but appreciate that they are very busy in their professional lives. The role of the editor is to edit, not necessarily to write, hence the quality of the newsletter depends very much on the enthusiasm of contributors.

As discussed in the June issue, the newsletter is not the only means of communicating with and among members. The new website has much to offer in this respect. I wish the incoming Communications Editor every success in tackling the task of keeping members informed and receiving support from them.

David Hogg



# ETANZ DIRECTORY

## COUNCIL

### Executive

President: Bill Haylock

Vice President - Australia: Justin Sherrard

Vice President - New Zealand: Prof. Ian Spellerberg

Secretary: Leo Fietje

Treasurer: Michael Chilcott

Communications Editor: Dr David Hogg

Special Projects Director: Nick Kariotoglou

### Divisional Councillors

ACT: Rochelle Christian

Far North Queensland: Dr Adam Smith

New South Wales: Faye Hargreaves

New Zealand: Jo Buckner

Northern Territory: Cathy Waldron

South Australia: Stewart Duncan

South East Queensland: Alan Chenoweth

Tasmania: Axel von Krusenstierna

Victoria: Nigel Murphy

Western Australia: John Braid

### 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: Belinda van Eyndhoven

Professional Development Committee: David Hogg

Students and Young Professionals: Vacant

Certification Board: Nigel Murphy

### CHAPTER AND DIVISION PRESIDENTS

Australian Capital Territory: Mark O'Brien

Far North Queensland: Robyn Stoney

New South Wales: Tom Davies

New Zealand: Tom Burkitt

Northern Territory: Scott Randall

South Australia: Joe Mifsud

South East Queensland: David Carbery

Tasmania: Philip Millin

Victoria: Liz Hurst

Western Australia: John Braid

### CENTRAL OFFICE

Operations Manager: Anne Young

Membership Administrator: Catherine McCafferty

CEnvP Program Manager: Melissa Grant

### SPECIAL INTEREST SECTION CONVENORS

Impact Assessment: Lachlan Wilkinson

ETANZ Ecology: Simon Mustoe

Climate change: Tiffany Thomson

## NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to the following new members who were accepted for membership in July and August 2009.

### Australian Capital Territory

Liesl Codrington Member

Helen King Student

Kelly Behrens Student

### Far North Queensland

Zoe Robinson Associate

Lisa Cheney Associate

Jamie Milne Student

### New South Wales

Denise Lo Member

Colin Tickell Member

Steve Chow Member

Benjamin Pearce Member

Hazel Storey Member

Ben Munro Member

Kelly Weir Associate

Hala Yousef Student

### South Australia

Benjamin Leonello Member

Alex MacLeod Associate

### South East Queensland

Emma Walsh Member

Paul Locke Member

Stephen Hayes Member

Rhys Davies Member

Brett Loney Member

Luke Reade Member

Monique Chelin Member

Rodney Cameron Member

Rebecca Miller Member

James Hall-Brown Associate

Matthew Murtough Associate

Radhika Rao Associate

Alyce Frew Student

Laura Canevari Student

### Tasmania

Rhonda Mortimer Student

### Victoria

Nanette Hattingh Member

Shelley Ada Member

Alan Bull Member

Ben Power Member

Pamela Beattie Member

Dr Mohammad Afzal Member

Justin Rhodes Member

Yang Yu Member

Dean Suckling Member

Sarah Austin Member

Stephen Thomas Member

Julie Didier Associate

Matthew Yu Student

### Western Australia

Jareth Howard Student

