



Photo by Peter Buosi - NRA

# The Environmental Practitioner

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Well it's a bumper issue of *TEP* this month, with some timely articles from our members on biodiversity and changes to ISO environmental standards.

We hear more about the progress EIANZ is making in improving benefits for members, providing professional development in climate change mitigation and adaptation, forging MOUs with other environmental bodies, and in defining the proposed EIANZ CEO role.

**EIANZ Benefactor**



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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.



Photo by Bec McIntyre

## Editorial

Welcome to the June – mid-year – issue of The Environmental Practitioner. The year has progressed very quickly, and no doubt I am not the only one bemoaning the shortfall between my personal list of intended and actual achievements at this juncture.

Luckily there has been no shortfall in the energies of the EIANZ Council and Executive. As you will see in the President's report following, and in recent emails to members, we have been bending our efforts towards improving benefits for members and growing a strong membership base that reflects the large and multi-faceted body of environmental practitioners in Australia and New Zealand. We also invite individual members to continue their good work in promoting the events of the Institute, and in encouraging other practitioners to join and contribute, through our forthcoming 'Tell Ten People' competition. Stay tuned for more information via the email list.

A few developments have been occurring in the communications corner of EIANZ. Over the past few months we have sought proposals from publishers interested in partnering with the Institute's journal, the Australasian Journal of Environmental Management (AJEM), in a refinement of our journal business model. Part of this revision is intended to include an efficient electronic journal delivery system for subscribers, and improved professional support for our editors. I will keep you updated as these discussions progress.

On the national and international stage, it has been a particularly dismaying few months for the marine environment with the BP oil slick still spreading in the Gulf of Mexico off Louisiana in the wake of an impotent array of technological solutions, and the wandering Chinese coal carrier the *Shen Neng 1* running aground on the Great Barrier Reef, leaking two tonnes of oil into World Heritage Area.

The headaches of the whaling industry continue, with new International Whaling Commission (IWC) bribery claims, and Australia announcing its decision to pursue legal options against the Japanese whaling industry, while New Zealand continues the diplomatic avenue. And, of course, a further casualty, the long-suffering Mr Tony "I'd like my life back" Hayward still to find his own personal sustainability in dealing with it all.

In the midst of these continuing dilemmas, World Oceans Day passed by on June 8. Integral to our food security, and the health and survival of all life, oceans power our climate and are a key element of the biosphere. For those seeking some thought-provoking ruminations on marine conservation, I recommend two (among many other quality talks) available at Ted Talks ([www.ted.com](http://www.ted.com)) – 'How I fell in love with a fish' by Dan Barber, and 'Brian Skerry reveals ocean's glory'.

The next deadline for The Environmental Practitioner is 27 August 2010. So send your submissions and photos to email [communications-editor@eianz.org](mailto:communications-editor@eianz.org). And of course, also welcome are any members who would like to be profiled for the Member Snapshot (see page 18).

**Rebecca McIntyre** MEIANZ  
**EIANZ Communications Editor**





## From the President's Desk

It is with much pleasure that I report that the Institute has progressed its discussions with other international bodies in signing a number of Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) agreements. In March (coinciding with Globe 2010 in Vancouver, Canada), we signed an MoU with ECO Canada to work together and promote the role of environmental practitioners through both organisations. We have now also received confirmation that the Board of the Society for the Environment (UK) has also agreed to sign an MOU with us and ECO Canada. Both of these bodies manage their respective country's professional environmental certification programs.

These MoU agreements will allow us to work more closely and share information in terms of early-career and ongoing professional development requirements for environmental practitioners. It will also allow us to investigate and explore the possibilities of a mutual exemption agreement for our various certification programs.

The three organisations have also agreed to continue to seek other like-minded organisations around the world. We hope to have a formal signing with the Society for the Environment in London in September this year.

The Institute's Special Interest Section (SIS) for Impact Assessment has recently extended an offer to the International Association of Impact Assessment (IAIA) to have a closer working relationship and for the SIS to become an affiliate of the IAIA. We will share details with members of these discussions as they progress.

We have also extended offers of MoU agreements to a number of other like-minded professional bodies throughout Australia and New Zealand. Both Tiffany Thomson (Vice-President Australia) and I have met with many of the organisations to progress with the alignment. We hope to have these MOU agreements in place very shortly. In essence, the MOU seeks to allow our members to attend functions of these other professional bodies at member rates, and to collectively advertise events. We are intending that these relationships will help disseminate information and develop professional development opportunities for our members in Australia and New Zealand.



**EPBC Act Review:** The External Relations Standing Committee is currently drafting a document to help support Chapter 7 recommendations of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC Act) Review Report. The Review highlighted the many concerns regarding the quality of work and the ethical manner in which some of it is undertaken. Subsequently, Chapter 7 clearly identifies the urgent need for certified practitioners in the EPBC Act referral processes. At present, the Department of Environment Water Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA) is drafting recommendations for Cabinet to consider. We are hoping that we may see a Cabinet decision to accept the Chapter 7 requirements in July or August this year. Let's hope a Federal election does not derail the process.

It is important to note that if these recommendations are adopted, it will change the way we all practice and undertake our various tasks as environmental practitioners. It will provide greater certainty and transparency, but most of all, it will demand ethical and accountable environmental practitioners that are subject to peer review.

**Institute CEO:** The Institute's Executive has recently prepared a discussion paper outlining the business case for the possible appointment of a Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to the EIANZ. The paper responds to a concern within the Executive and Council that the Institute's service delivery and growth is being limited by the constraints of the current volunteer efforts of the Executive and Council, however valuable these efforts are.

The paper identifies that the appointment of an Institute CEO:

- Can address the Institute's need for additional capacity in leadership, stakeholder relationship management and representational duties;
- Can support the Institute in securing opportunities for growth and service delivery that are presently not being captured by the EIANZ; and
- Should focus on securing income growth in the Institute's membership, sponsorship and events in areas of operation.

We plan to discuss the business case at our next Council meeting in early July.

**Member Benefits:** Those of you renewing as of 30 June this year should now have received your membership renewal forms and brochures. The renewal form includes details to the new membership benefits, which range from discounted environmental products, publications and news services, to an updated business insurance and accounting portfolio for environmental practitioners. I would personally like to thank our Operations Manager, Anne Young, for her considerable efforts in negotiating and collating these benefits for you. The Institute hopes to take these benefits online in the future, so as to create a more dynamic member benefits process. Both Tiffany, and the Vice-President (New Zealand), Tom Burkitt, are working with Anne to expand the benefits for members. Please note that for some benefits you will need to contact Central Office in Melbourne directly.

**Climate Change Skills Training:** As mentioned in the last newsletter, the Institute continues to roll out a series of Climate Change Skills Training Forums across the Institute. You would also have received an email letter from Tiffany detailing the events and encouraging your direct participation.

You can find the details and Modules at [www.eianz.org/professional-development/schedule-of-forums](http://www.eianz.org/professional-development/schedule-of-forums) and contact your respective Division to attend a Forum event. These events will all be concluded by the third quarter of this year, so if you have not yet had an opportunity to attend now is the time!



**EIANZ Annual Conference:** Also mentioned in the last newsletter, the Institute's Wellington NZ Conference 2010 will be from 27 to 29 October. The theme for NZ Conference 2010 is "**From Discovery to Delivery: Science, Policy, Leadership & Action**". Whilst the call for papers closed in early June there are still many opportunities available for you to be involved.

Please take the time to visit the Conference website at [www.confer.co.nz/eianz2010](http://www.confer.co.nz/eianz2010) for all the details. There is a fantastic program with some wonderful keynote speakers. Let's all support the New Zealand Chapter.

I look forward to meeting many of you at the conference and helping to ensure that the Institute's presence at this major New Zealand event is well represented.

**Bill Haylock** FEIANZ CEnvP  
**President EIANZ**



EIANZ 2010 Conference destination.....Wellington, NZ

## The Certified Environmental Practitioner (CEnvP) Program June 2010 Application Deadline Approaches

The CEnvP Program is a peer-review certification program that seeks to boost community confidence in, and recognition of, competent and ethical environmental professionals. CEnvP is inviting applications from suitably qualified practitioners by June 25, 2010. For more information about the CEnvP Program or application requirements, please visit [www.cenvp.org](http://www.cenvp.org) or email your inquiries to [info@cenvp.org](mailto:info@cenvp.org).



### NSW Division Gets Linked In!

The NSW Division has set up a Group on the business networking site LinkedIn. The group is open to all members of EIANZ. Information will be posted about upcoming events organised by the NSW Division, including professional development training and social events.

Any queries can be directed to the group moderator, Fiona Gainsford, on behalf of the EIANZ NSW Divisional Committee.

## New Book on Terrestrial Vertebrate Fauna Assessment

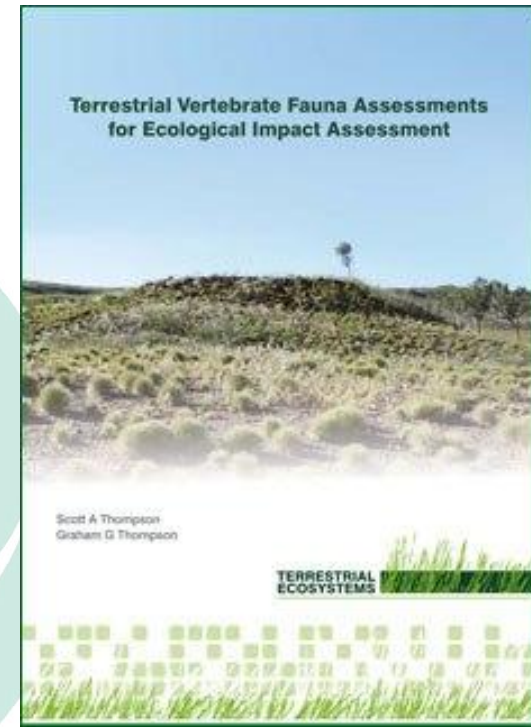
Dr Graham Thompson and Dr Scott Thompson have produced a book on fauna assessments - 'Terrestrial Vertebrate Fauna Assessments for Ecological Impact Assessment'. The purpose of the book is to provide environmental staff and consultants with a comprehensive summary of what the literature suggests should be undertaken when conducting vertebrate fauna assessments for EIAs and native vegetation clearing permit applications. They have used this information to develop and describe appropriate fauna management procedures for proposed developments.

The content of the book focuses on Western Australia, however, the principles of fauna management and assessment are similar across Australia. It was the view of the authors that much improvement could be made in this area, as the standards and expectations of industry and regulatory bodies vary appreciably. In many cases, what is suggested will not incur additional costs, but rather a redirection of resources into areas where they will provide more useful information and better outcomes.

The book has been reviewed by a number of people working in government, consulting and private industry to ensure it is focused on the key issues. This feedback has been incorporated into the final version.

The intent of the authors is to provide industry (i.e. environmental staff working in mining companies, land developers, environmental consultants, government assessors, etc) with a summary of the available information so as to raise the standard of fauna assessments. The book is freely available to ensure that this information is distributed to the widest possible audience.

The book can be downloaded from [www.terrestrialecosystems.com](http://www.terrestrialecosystems.com)



If you have any further queries or would like to discuss the book, please contact Scott Thompson [scott@terrestrialecosystems.com](mailto:scott@terrestrialecosystems.com)

**Dr Scott Thompson MEIANZ - Terrestrial Ecosystems**





## OUR TRAINERS KNOW THE ENVIRONMENT

At a Graham A Brown & Associates training workshop you benefit from over 40 years of practical consultancy experience in the fields of auditing, environmental management systems, waste management, sustainability and climate change. Our practicing consultants use their training skills and experience linking theory to current practice to **optimise your learning experience**. From the boardroom to the factory floor Graham A Brown & Associates offers a unique environmental training development and delivery experience. To secure your place in one of our public workshops listed below complete the registration form found online at

[www.grahamabrown.com.au](http://www.grahamabrown.com.au) and fax to 02 4927 8400. To discuss a customised training workshop to suit your needs contact us on 02 4927 8500 or email [training@grahamabrown.com.au](mailto:training@grahamabrown.com.au)

### 2010 Training Dates

#### Environmental Auditor Certification Workshop (5 days)

Melbourne	12th - 16th July
Brisbane	2nd - 6th August
Newcastle	20th - 24th September
Sydney	18th - 22nd October

For more information phone 02 4927 8500 [training@grahamabrown.com.au](mailto:training@grahamabrown.com.au) [www.grahamabrown.com.au](http://www.grahamabrown.com.au)



Photo by Ian Wiseman

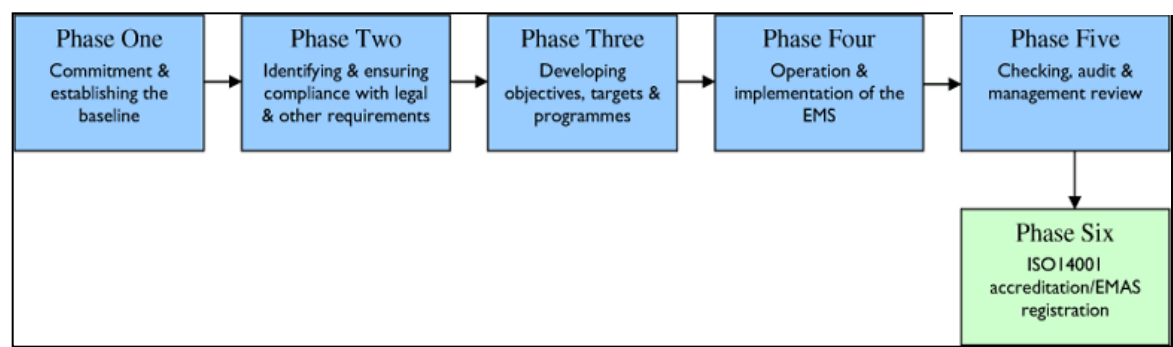
## ISO 14005:2009 - What is it?

The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) is currently developing ISO/DIS 14005.2 Environmental management systems - Guidelines for the phased implementation of an environmental management system, including the use of environmental performance evaluation. As the title implies, this Standard provides guidance to organisations implementing an environmental management system (EMS) using a staged or step-by-step approach. Once the Standard is finalised and implemented it will be known as ISO 14005:2009.

### ISO 14005:2009 - Who Would Want to Use These Guidelines?

There is a history of phased implementation being used overseas, including the British Standard BS 8555:2003/Acorn and Enviro-Mark®NZ in New Zealand. Both have been successfully implemented in small, medium and large organisations across all industry sectors.

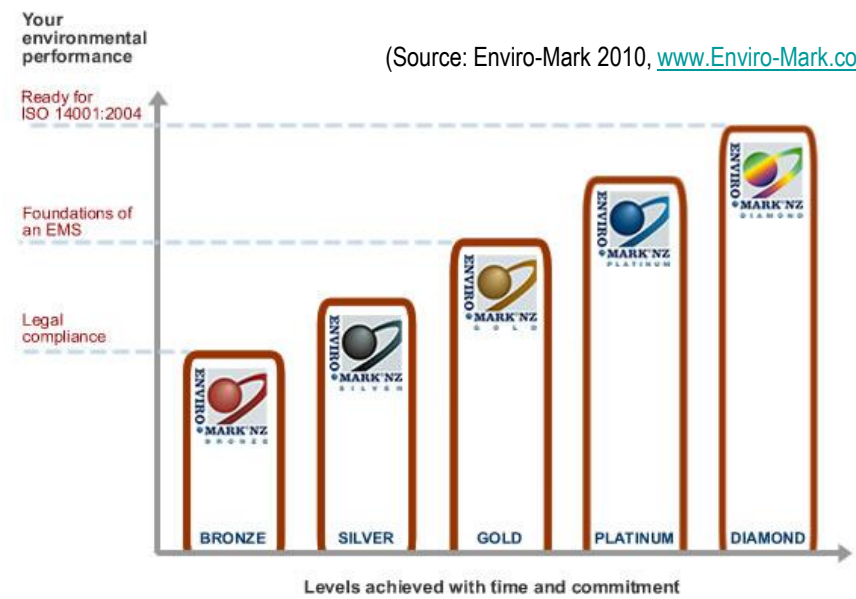
BS 8555:2003/Acorn ([www.iema.net/ems/acorn\\_scheme/bs8555](http://www.iema.net/ems/acorn_scheme/bs8555)) uses a six-phase approach to implement an EMS. The six phases are detailed below.



(Source: Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment 2010, [www.iema.net](http://www.iema.net))

Enviro-Mark®NZ ([www.enviro-mark.co.nz/about/works.asp](http://www.enviro-mark.co.nz/about/works.asp)) uses a five-stage approach to implement an EMS, as detailed below.

(Source: Enviro-Mark 2010, [www.Enviro-Mark.co.nz](http://www.Enviro-Mark.co.nz))



The current draft of ISO 14005 lays out the components of an EMS such as communication, competence, records, document control, identifying your significant environmental aspects, legal and other requirements. Within the components are suggested steps to implement each component. It is intended that the organisations using the guidance will implement the EMS in the order that the components appear in the Standard. Therefore, it is paramount that the order of the components reflects the way in which an organisation would logically implement an EMS.





Photo by Ian Wiseman

### **ISO 14005:2009- How Does it Fit in With ISO 14001?**

ISO 14005 has been developed to promote the uptake of ISO 14001:2004 Standard to which organisations get certified against. There has been a history of low uptake of ISO 14001 when compared to other Standards, such as quality and product safety certification. It is expected that once an organisation has followed the ISO 14005 guidelines comprehensively, then they would be in a position to obtain ISO 14001:2004 certification.

### **ISO 14005:2009- How is New Zealand Involved?**

This Standard is at the enquiry stage of the development process. To become a finalised Standard it must undergo the approval and publication stages, which involves international consultation. Standards New Zealand represents New Zealand's interests and ensures that the New Zealand viewpoint is considered.

Standards New Zealand has convened the New Zealand International Review Group which is represented by a mix of industry and government. The Chairperson of this group is Howard Markland from the Ministry of Economic Development, who will be representing New Zealand at the ISO technical committee meeting in July 2010 in Mexico. This will include a presentation to the committee incorporating two topics: *Encouraging EMS uptake by SMEs - a New Zealand Perspective* and *SME Research in New Zealand-Recent Findings Relevant to Environmental Management*.

**Jeska McNicol MEIANZ** - representing the view of EIANZ members on the New Zealand International Review Group. If you are interested contributing your ideas then please contact Jeska by email: [mcnicolj@landcareresearch.co.nz](mailto:mcnicolj@landcareresearch.co.nz) or phone: +64 3 321 9893.

## **Standards – Update**

**Sustainable City Initiatives:** The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) has recently commenced developing an International Workshop Agreement (IWA) on Sustainable Business Districts. The IWA is to provide Business Districts-oriented principles of sustainable development, a framework to establish a core set of indicators, a performance assessment methodology, as well as a guide to best practices.

A meeting was held in Paris in January 2010, with a further meeting held in Montreal in May. The output of this meeting will be a working draft, with two further meetings scheduled for late 2010 and early 2011 before a final IWA is issued.

**Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Standards:** The second meeting of the working group developing *ISO TR 14069 Quantification and reporting of GHG emissions for organizations - Guidance for the application of ISO 14064-1* recently took place in Venice and will hopefully lead to a working draft later this year with a Committee Draft for public comment due by the end of the year. The document is intended to support the use of 14064.1 for organisations and is not based on life cycle assessment (LCA) concepts like that being used for issues associated with the carbon footprint of products and services in *ISO 14067 Carbon footprint of products*.

Should you require further information please contact the Institute [office@eianz.org](mailto:office@eianz.org) where your query will be passed on to the relevant representative(s) on these Committees.

**Stan Rodgers MEIANZ**

EnviroCert® has made it its mission to provide a credible, independent and cost effective environmental certification option to small and medium sized organisations that want to reduce their impacts on our environment.

The newly developed EnviroCert® standard is based on the core principles of the international ISO14001-standard and provides a framework by which improved environmental performance as well as compliance with environmental legislation and customer requirements can be achieved.

EnviroCert® offers affordable and accessible environmental certification for small to medium enterprises and provides Them with formal recognition of their efforts to improve their environmental performance.

Certification to the EnviroCert® standard demonstrates to clients, employees, regulatory authorities and the community the organisation's commitment to improved environmental performance. This not only helps reducing operational costs and liabilities, it is also a valuable marketing advantage in today's competitive business climate.

To make EnviroCert® certification widely available throughout Australia and New Zealand, we are further extending our network of agencies to help us spread the word. The three key areas in which agencies operate are:

-promotion: promotional agents use their networks to promote and make people aware of the EnviroCert programme.

-auditing: trained and registered auditors who independently assess businesses compliance with the specified criteria.

-training: training agents can provide the standard one-day EnviroCert training or the FarmReady approved EnviroCert training.

Agents can choose to engage in one of these key areas or in any combination of them, provided they meet the minimum requirements that apply to any of the areas and that no conflicts of interest occur.

Different pre-requisites apply to any of the agency models to ensure that EnviroCert® services are provided with the highest level of customer service and integrity. A sound financial reward is offered for the services provided by approved agents.

Contact the EnviroCert® office and talk to our friendly staff to find out more:

Freecall: 1800 798 001 or email: [info@envirocert.com.au](mailto:info@envirocert.com.au)

[www.envirocert.com.au](http://www.envirocert.com.au)





Photo by Bec McIntyre

## IWC Water Leader Scholarships

Full-tuition (AU\$39,960) and partial-tuition scholarships are now available to study International Water Centre's (IWC) Master of Integrated Water Management (Australia).

### Overview

- Full-time study, Part-time/distance study (Australia/NZ citizens only).
- Scholarships open 1 May – 1 August 2010.
- Program starts February 2011.

### Eligibility

- A completed undergraduate degree in a related field of study from an internationally-recognised institution.
- Demonstrated English language proficiency (as required by the University of Queensland).
- Practical experience in a related field is preferred but not required.

### Master of Integrated Water Management (MIWM)

The program takes a multi-disciplinary, whole-of-water cycle approach. It is a co-badged and co-taught degree by the University of Queensland, Griffith University, Monash University and the University of Western Australia. The program equips students with the integration, leadership and managerial skills to become part of an elite group of water leaders with sustainable and holistic solutions to global water and climate change challenges. The program commences February 2011 and can be completed in 12 or 18 months full-time or 3 years in part-time/distance study mode.

Apply: [www.watercentre.org/education/programs/scholarships/iwc-scholarships](http://www.watercentre.org/education/programs/scholarships/iwc-scholarships).

Program: <http://www.watercentre.org/education>

Video on the program: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eJlaqlAJneY>

Contact us: [admin@watercentre.org](mailto:admin@watercentre.org)

## EIANZ Climate Change Forums Schedule

A Climate Change forum is likely to be accessible to you in 2010. If you are interested in attending or feel you have something to contribute to the organisation of a forum please contact either EIANZ Operations Manager Anne Young at [office@eianz.org](mailto:office@eianz.org) or your local Division. Electronic access to training materials may be available for those of you in regional areas. Please let us know! A forum program for 2010 is as follows. Please note these dates may change without notice:

Division	Forum Date
New South Wales	Complete
Far North Queensland	16 July 2010
Victoria	21 July 2010
Northern Territory	October 2010
South East Queensland	18 October 2010
New Zealand	27 October 2010
Western Australia	19 November 2010



Photo by David Manson

## Biodiversity Matters

Over the past few years, human-induced climate change has been on top of the 'environmental agenda'. Huge resources have been directed at addressing climate change.

It has struck fear into the hearts of politicians. That's understandable given the widespread suffering, displacement and mortality that will accompany climate change. The very modest outcomes from the 'Copenhagen Conference' will do little to address the effects of climate change.

Even an immediate halt of all use of fossil fuels would take a very long time to have any effect on the world's climate because the greenhouse gases in the atmosphere will take many decades to return to their pre-industrial levels.

Copenhagen was all about politics and money. Human-induced climate change is but one small component of a much bigger problem, that is, the unsustainable and inequitable use of nature by growing numbers of human consumers.

While climate change is the most dramatic manifestation of this problem, it really boils down to what we call the "Biological Diversity Imperative". After all, the effects of climate change are felt by people through their impacts on elements of biodiversity and ecosystems. Diversity, be it biological, cultural, or linguistic is undoubtedly the fundamental basis of sustainability and human welfare. The United Nations (UN) has proclaimed 2010 as the 'International Year of Biodiversity'. Celebrations took place in Berlin on Monday January 11 to launch this initiative and the world was invited to take action to 'safeguard the variety of life on earth'.



### 2010 International Year of Biodiversity

Compared to the 2009 high profile discussions about 'climate change', 'greenhouse emissions', and global warming, an International Year of Biodiversity might seem boring. Why would anyone care about 'safeguarding the variety of life on earth?' Aren't conservation agencies around the world doing enough? Sadly, the answer is "no", and the fault lies not with the conservation agencies but with the conflict between the supply of aspects of biodiversity and the resource demands of the nearly seven billion people who inhabit our planet.

But what exactly is 'biodiversity' and why did the UN declare 2010 to be the International Year of Biological Diversity? The term 'biodiversity' is a truncated form of 'biological diversity'. In brief, it means the variety of life on earth. It is commonly understood in terms of the wide variety of species of plants and animals. Scientists argue about the number of species (estimates range from three to 100 million) and there is considerable concern about the rate of extinction (some assessments have identified more than 31,000 species threatened with extinction).

There is little doubt that the rate of extinction is greater than has ever occurred before since humans evolved a few hundred thousand years ago. Furthermore, there is little doubt that humans are the main cause of the extinction of so many species. It is not surprising therefore that nature conservation (basically halting the loss of certain levels of biological diversity) has arisen as a human response to a problem that threatens human well-being.





Photo by David Manson

## ***'We should be more concerned about the 'Biological Diversity imperative' than climate change.'***

However, it's not all about species conservation. While biodiversity includes variety of species, it is much more than just species. The key word is 'diversity' or 'variety'. Biological diversity is the sum total of variety at all levels of life from molecular levels to whole ecological systems. It's a kind of blanket term that embraces the whole range of biological and ecological scales from microscopic genetic diversity (the biological basis of the variety of crops and breeds of livestock) to large-scale ecological systems that drive the dynamics of oceans, rivers and landscapes.

Biological diversity includes the variety of plants, animals and micro-organisms within ecological assemblages or 'food webs'. Within those assemblages, the multitude of interactions, including soil formation, nutrient cycling, and pollination of plants, will enable ecosystems to adapt to changing conditions such as global warming or ocean acidification.

As with so many technical terms, the wide and popular use of the term 'biological diversity' over two decades has resulted in misuse and confusion. At a local council meeting, a politician once asked, "is biodiversity good or bad?" He seemed to treat biodiversity as an object rather than a fundamental characteristic of life itself.

Politicians are not the only ones to misuse the term. Most local government policy documents on biological diversity dwell on 'species' and no other kind of variety of life. Consequently such documents overlook the importance of other kinds of 'diversity', though of course farmers are well aware of the genetic diversity of their crops and protected area system planners often focus on ecosystems.

But even those working in biology and ecology commonly misuse the term and occasionally make nonsense statements such as "the biodiversity is improving". Without saying exactly what is meant or qualifying the level of biological organisation, such statements are not very enlightening, or even meaningful.

Without any doubt, humans are dependent on biological diversity in its myriad of scales, forms and processes. For example, we are dependent on aspects of diversity in biology for food (both abundance and variety), clean water, productive soils, and clean air. Indeed, biological diversity in its many forms sustains our lives by providing both sources of food and materials as well as 'sinks' for our waste. For example, it is thanks to the diversity of life forms and biological interactions that organic waste matter is broken down and absorbed by nature, to be recycled into natural resources that can be used again.

In 1992, in Rio de Janeiro, the Convention on Biological Diversity was adopted by the UN Conference on Environment and Development. The objectives of the Convention (to put it simply) is the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from genetic resources. That Convention now has 192 signatories, of which over 100 have produced national strategies to implement the convention. World-wide, strategies have been written and re-written, targets have been set, budgets have been allocated, and actions have been taken.



Photo by David Manson

Eighteen years on, how are we doing? In brief, it's not looking good. Plenty of evidence shows that humans continue to exploit nature in an unsustainable manner, be it exploitation of plants and animals or pollution of watersheds, soils and oceans.

The most damning verdict came five years ago in the form of the four main findings of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, the result of work carried out by over 1300 scientists. Those findings were summarised in the statement 'humans have changed ecosystems more rapidly and extensively in the last 50 years than in any other period'. For example, globally our level of use of fisheries and fresh water can not be sustained. As the Secretary General of the UN said in 2005, "Failure to conserve biological diversity in a sustainable manner would result in degrading environments, new and more rampant illnesses, deepening poverty and a continued pattern of inequitable and untenable growth".

So what's being done and who's leading the way? The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), with some 1100 member organizations, has biological diversity as its core business. In addition to the expected programs on species, protected areas and ecosystem management it has a unit working on 'business and biodiversity'.

It understands that the problems of conserving many aspects of biological diversity can't be separated from the larger issues of social and economic development. Biological diversity is increasingly relevant to businesses and in 2007 the European Union (EU) introduced legislation which holds operators liable for damage to water resources, soil, fauna, flora and natural habitats.

New Zealand leads the world in many aspects of nature conservation. It must build on that leadership and establish sustainability credentials that are based soundly on conservation and sustainable use of diversity in biological and ecological systems.

More discussion about such things as payment for ecosystem services and incentives for conserving native plant communities as well as programmes to better inform the public as to what biological diversity is all about, are all needed.

Last year, while the world focused on climate change, destruction and exploitation of natural systems continued and even worsened. For example, Canada converted vast wilderness areas into open-pit mines for converting tar sands into oil. In the UN International Year of Biodiversity, climate change needs to be removed from the top of the environmental agenda and instead recognised as a major symptom of the ecosystem disruption and a fundamental threat to many aspects of biodiversity.

Perhaps the funds being thrown at climate change can be more productively used to put far more resources into the sustainable and equitable use of all components of biological diversity. After all, biodiversity is what will enable us to adapt to the climate change. Biological diversity is the environmental imperative this year— not climate change!

**Ian Spellerberg FEIANZ CEnvP and Jeff McNeely**

*Ian Spellerberg is a Fellow of the EIANZ and is Professor of Nature Conservation at Lincoln University. Jeff McNeely is the Senior Science Advisor for IUCN. As part of the UN Year of Biological Diversity, this article was first published in The Christchurch Press, 25 February 2010.*





Graduate Certificate in

# Environmental Compliance

Commencing August, 2010



From August 2010 Flinders Law School will commence delivery of the **Graduate Certificate in Environmental Compliance**.

This postgraduate qualification will be available to those already employed in environmental compliance and enforcement and to those wishing to pursue a career in that area.

The program has been designed to equip interested individuals with a solid grounding in environmental law, particularly those involved in compliance and enforcement. This is an area of increasing national importance and focus. The program will appeal to environmental regulators throughout all the Australian jurisdictions.

Students will study four topics on a part-time basis over one year - three being delivered online, and one intensive-mode:

**Principles of Environmental Law**

**Environmental Compliance: Theory and Practice**

**Investigating Environmental Crimes**

**Enforcing Environmental Law**

Flinders Law School in conjunction with TAFESA and DLA Phillips Fox



## Further information

Associate Professor Simon Marsden,  
Flinders Law School

**P:** (08) 8201 5802

**E:** [simon.marsden@flinders.edu.au](mailto:simon.marsden@flinders.edu.au)

Jane Turci, Administrative Officer,  
Flinders Law School

**P:** (08) 8201 2942

**E:** [jane.turci@flinders.edu.au](mailto:jane.turci@flinders.edu.au)

**W:** [www.flinders.edu.au/law](http://www.flinders.edu.au/law)

Admissions/Prospective Students Office,  
Flinders University

**P:** 1300 657 671

**E:** [postgradinfo@flinders.edu.au](mailto:postgradinfo@flinders.edu.au)

CRICOS No. 00114A

## The Environmental Law Roundtable of Australia and New Zealand and the International Year for Biodiversity

There will be two Environmental Law Roundtable of Australia and New Zealand (ELRANZ) sessions at the National Environmental Law Association 2010 conference in Canberra (20-23 October) which will:

- Foster dialogue on **environmental offset policies for biodiversity**; and
- Include a negotiation session (the interactive workshop) aimed at harmonisation of an offsets policy on biodiversity across Australia and New Zealand with a model for adaptation internationally through the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and other interested international organisations.

The speakers are:

- The **Hon Rod Welford** **MEIANZ**, Managing Director, Integrated Resource Planners; formerly Queensland Minister for the Environment, Heritage & Natural Resources (1998-2001); Attorney General and Minister for Justice (2001-2005); Minister for Education and the Arts (2005-2009); and Minister for Training (2006-2009).
- **Dr Hugh Lavery** **FEIANZ** **CEnvP**, Adjunct Professor of Environmental Systems, Institute of Sustainable Resources, Queensland University of Technology; Executive Counsel at Meridien; Chairman, Community Reference Group, Port of Airlie Development; and EIANZ Certified Environmental Practitioner of the Year 2007-2008.



- **Gerry Morvell**, consultant advisor on climate change, energy and environment issues and Chairman of Conservation Volunteers Australia since 2007; until mid-2007 Gerry was a senior executive in the Australian Greenhouse Office; has held positions with international organisations including Co-Chair of the Asia Pacific Partnership Renewable Energy and Distributed Generation Taskforce, and Head of Business Liaison and Communications in the United Nations Secretariat for the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development.

### **John Haydon** **MEIANZ** **CEnvP**

*John Haydon is the contact person for the ELRANZ sessions of the conference. Please contact him at [johnhaydon@ecodirections.com](mailto:johnhaydon@ecodirections.com) for further information.*





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Photo by Ing Toh - NRA

## ‘Make an Impact’



Alcoa, together with its long-term sustainability partner Greening Australia, created the “Make an Impact” program in 2006. The program was designed to help Alcoa employees and their families reduce household energy and water use and become part of the solution to climate change. Alcoa is now expanding the program to other businesses and schools, with Barwon Water the first business to participate.

Barwon Water employees now have access to an online calculator to help reduce their greenhouse footprint, with the corporation being the first business in Australia to sign up as an associate partner in the program.

Employees enter details into an online calculator to establish their impact on the environment. The calculator generates a personalised action plan for each user, which is then used to make simple and effective changes around the home.

Barwon Water General Manager Capital Projects and Greenhouse Paul Northey said Make an Impact was in line with the corporation’s values, which included a commitment to environmental sustainability.

“Barwon Water as an organisation has set targets to reduce emissions and has greenhouse gas reduction programs in place through our Greenhouse Strategy,” Mr Northey said.

“Make an Impact complements these actions by giving employees the chance to implement change in their homes, as well as at work.”

Alcoa of Australia’s Point Henry Operations Manager Stewart Esdale said the program has been extremely effective within Alcoa, with hundreds of employees taking part in reducing their home energy and water use.

“Make an Impact was developed in Australia in partnership with Greening Australia and is now being used worldwide by Alcoa employees. It’s now fantastic to see a program we initiated being adopted by another business so their employees can also be part of the solution,” Mr Esdale said.

**Nicole Sexton – Barwon Water**





Photo by Peter Buosi - NRA

## Member Snapshot – Neil Boland MEIANZ

**What do you do?** Director and Principal Environmental Scientist – NRA Environmental Consultants Cairns and Townsville.

### *Education:*

- Bachelor of Science (Resource Management), Griffith University, 1979.
- Graduate Course in Hydrology, University of NSW, 1993.

**How did you get there?** Growing up in Cairns, I had always been interested in the environment and was dismayed by the scant regard for environmental issues in the push to develop north Queensland. When I was considering going onto higher education, Griffith University had just launched its environmental science degree course and, as it was a new course, I was able to scrape in with my pretty ordinary entrance score (the alternative was law!).

On graduating, I worked for CSIRO where I learned a lot about the process and discipline of research. During a visit to north Queensland in 1984, I was amazed at the level of development that was occurring due to the burgeoning tourist and mining industries. I decided that there was an opportunity to use the skills I had learned to do something worthwhile. NRA opened its doors in 1984 and hasn't looked back in 25 years.

**Biggest environmental concern?** Climate change. Regardless of which side of the fence you sit on, there is no doubt that we human beings are capable of causing impacts on a global scale. For our Government to say that we won't do anything about it until someone else does so not only defies logic and the instinct for survival but is surrendering the economic opportunities that will undoubtedly be attached to addressing climate change.

It is obvious we can't rely on government to provide leadership. Leadership is going to have to come from elsewhere. I think there is a role there for the EIANZ and similar organisations. But before we can achieve this we have to establish ourselves as an organisation that Government turns to for advice, as it does to the Australian Medical Association (AMA), for example. I don't think we are there yet.



### **Best aspects of EIANZ membership?**

When the EIANZ was originally formed, I joined up enthusiastically (my certificate number is 63) and in 1989 the small group of environmental professionals in north Queensland formed a FNQ Division. Although the division has struggled at times, it is pleasing to see that it currently has good leadership and is very active.

EIANZ's greatest achievement is the Certified Environmental Practitioner scheme. When I started practicing in this field, the idea that you could be an environmental "professional" was literally a joke. Engineering companies openly stated that they were experts in the environment, social impacts, building design - the lot. Many of the environmental liabilities we have today are the result. This attitude has been hard to shift, but the advent of the Certification scheme has made a significant improvement.



Photo by Ian Wiseman

## New Members

First Name	Last Name	Category	Division
David	Moore	FULL MEMBER	ACT
Jack	Gregory	STUDENT	ACT
Adam	Moran	FULL MEMBER	ACT
Damian	Edwards	FULL MEMBER	ACT
William	Moore	FULL MEMBER	FNQ
Laurence	Liessmann	FULL MEMBER	FNQ
Hayley	Poole	FULL MEMBER	FNQ
Marissa	Cameron	FULL MEMBER	FNQ
Nichole	Zahra	STUDENT	FNQ
Ewan	Briggs	ASSOCIATE	NSW
Alexandra	Charlton	ASSOCIATE	NSW
Danny	Ptak	FULL MEMBER	NSW
Victoria	Coleman	FULL MEMBER	NSW
Anthony	Eland	FULL MEMBER	NSW
Nicola	Corcoran	STUDENT	NSW
Joseph	McDermott	ASSOCIATE	NSW
Andrea	Sabella	ASSOCIATE	NSW
Gregory	Bradley-Ritt	ASSOCIATE	NSW
Belinda	Pignone	STUDENT	NSW
Felicia	Whiting	FULL MEMBER	NSW
Brendyn	Williams	FULL MEMBER	NSW
Chris	Gorman	FULL MEMBER	NSW
Christopher	Wilson	FULL MEMBER	NSW
Gregor	Riese	FULL MEMBER	NSW
David	Bone	FULL MEMBER	NSW
Hailey	Spry	FULL MEMBER	NSW
Raphael	Morgan	FULL MEMBER	NSW
Anthony	Ogilvie	FULL MEMBER	NSW
Katrina	Carter	FULL MEMBER	NT
Jill	Holdsworth	FULL MEMBER	NT
Susan	Harris	FULL MEMBER	NZ
Hamish	Lowe	FULL MEMBER	NZ

First Name	Last Name	Category	Division
Hamish	Lowe	FULL MEMBER	NZ
Kate	Jack	FULL MEMBER	NZ
Bridget	Goldman	FULL MEMBER	NZ
Aidan	McDonald	ASSOCIATE	NZ
Abigail	Stowell	ASSOCIATE	NZ
Emma	Wilson	STUDENT	SA
Phil	Ashly	FULL MEMBER	SA
John	Gavin	FULL MEMBER	SA
Peter	Georgaras	FULL MEMBER	SA
Cameron	Sanderson-Brewster	FULL MEMBER	SA
Irene	Wegener	STUDENT	SA
Ian	Marshall	FULL MEMBER	SEQ
Ian	Spence	FULL MEMBER	SEQ
Russell	Warner	FULL MEMBER	SEQ
Phillip	Bracks	FULL MEMBER	SEQ
Tim	George	FULL MEMBER	SEQ
Tina	Girard	FULL MEMBER	SEQ
Kristina	Entwistle	FULL MEMBER	SEQ
Samantha	Ward	FULL MEMBER	SEQ
Luke	Grainger	FULL MEMBER	SEQ
Nigel	Kimball	FULL MEMBER	SEQ
Rachael	Nasplezes	FULL MEMBER	SEQ
Colin	Hamilton	FULL MEMBER	SEQ
Marina	d'Amico	STUDENT	SEQ
Mervyn	Mason	FULL MEMBER	SEQ
Christopher	Anderson	FULL MEMBER	SEQ
Adam	Anderson	FULL MEMBER	SEQ
Michael	Chessells	FULL MEMBER	SEQ
Howard	Coombes	FULL MEMBER	SEQ
Mia	Potter	STUDENT	SEQ
Emma	Montgomery	FULL MEMBER	SEQ
Cuong	Tran	FULL MEMBER	SEQ
Neil	Lazarow	STUDENT	SEQ

First Name	Last Name	Category	Division
Graham	Ashford	FULL MEMBER	SEQ
Camilla	Duff	ASSOCIATE	SEQ
Anthony	Arena	STUDENT	SEQ
Wayne	Slack	FULL MEMBER	SEQ
Shane	Davis	FULL MEMBER	SEQ
Pratik	Patel	FULL MEMBER	SEQ
Grace	Field	STUDENT	SEQ
Mark	Chilton	FULL MEMBER	SEQ
Steven	Dickinson	FULL MEMBER	SEQ
Robert	Speirs	FULL MEMBER	SEQ
Elektra	Grant	STUDENT	SEQ
Jayne Kwai-Lin	Dunn	STUDENT	SEQ
Caroline	Whalley	FULL MEMBER	TAS
Jacquelyn	Smythe	STUDENT	TAS
Kathryn	Pugh	FULL MEMBER	TAS
Sam	Hannon	FULL MEMBER	VIC
Kirsten	Nettleton	STUDENT	VIC
James	Douglas	FULL MEMBER	VIC
Adrian	Young	STUDENT	VIC
Mohan	Yellishetty	STUDENT	VIC
Felix	Bowman-Derrick	STUDENT	VIC
Azain	Raban	FULL MEMBER	VIC
Kieran	Sands	ASSOCIATE	VIC
Christian	Vasconcelo	STUDENT	VIC
Frances	Tancock	STUDENT	VIC
Andrew	Mack	FULL MEMBER	WA
Conrad	Slee	FULL MEMBER	WA
Bindi	Shah	FULL MEMBER	WA
Gayle	Keys	FULL MEMBER	WA
Daniel	Gibbons	STUDENT	WA
Joanna	Edwards	FULL MEMBER	WA
Neil	Lazarow	STUDENT	SEQ



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VIC	Elizabeth Hurst
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On behalf of the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand (EIANZ), the conference organising committee extends a very warm invitation to Wellington, New Zealand for the 2010 EIANZ annual conference.

The title of the conference is “From Discovery to Delivery: Science, Policy, Leadership and Action” - the four elements which together, are essential for sound environmental management. Because 2010 is the International Year for Biodiversity, many of the conference papers will focus on this particular aspect of environmental management.

The conference streams and topics are designed to appeal to a wide range of disciplines: - ecologists, economists, government policy analysts, urban designers, community development specialists, business leaders and industry representatives. Topics will include “wicked” environmental problems; putting a value on ecosystems; assessing and monitoring sustainability; motivating communities to sustained action; and urban and rural environments that protect the natural environment and foster biodiversity.

The beautiful Shed 5 on Wellington Harbour is the site for the EIANZ Annual Gala Dinner and Merit Award Presentation. Key note speaker for the event is Antarctic expedition leader Grant Redvers.

Nominations for the Annual Merit Awards are now open. Nomination forms can be found at [www.eianz.org/eventsplus/category/merit-service-awards](http://www.eianz.org/eventsplus/category/merit-service-awards)

Conference Program, Dinner program, registration and accommodation information can be found at [www.confer.co.nz/eianz2010](http://www.confer.co.nz/eianz2010)





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- A facility which is able to provide cover to the majority of environmental businesses within EIANZ
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