

EIANZ

NZ Chapter

December 04 – January 05 Newsletter

Letter from the President

Dear Colleagues

It has been a while since our last newsletter was published. I would like to offer our sincere apologies for not communicating with you more often. The truth is very simple – the activities are many, and we are too few. To keep you up to date, I thought I'd let you know about the activities of the Chapter in the last few months.

After a short period in the doldrums at the end of last year and the beginning of this year, the NZ Chapter has seen an outburst of activities and a membership growth in the second half of this year. The Chapter is organising the next EIANZ conference, we are introducing an Australasian certification scheme for environmental professionals and we are outreaching to other professional bodies and associations in the best spirit of co-operation and inclusiveness. We are also continuing the professional development series in Christchurch, Wellington and Auckland with regular seminars and workshops of the highest quality.

At the same time, we have undertaken to process all membership applications 'in house', here in New Zealand, for expediency and your convenience. We also decided to be prudent and, with regrets, had to close our office in Christchurch, until larger numbers allow for a Central Office to be comfortably supported. The NZ Chapter Executive Secretary, Mike O'Connell, has undertaken to process all membership applications from now on.

Regretfully, Dr Johanna Rosier, our Vice-President and an Editor of the newsletter, resigned from the Executive last month, due to personal circumstances.

The NZ Chapter now has about 80 members, and is constantly growing. This is your organisation, established to respond to your needs and interests – please claim ownership and join us by actively contributing. The Chapter needs you!

Thank you for your loyalty and patience.

Ljubica Mamula-Stojnic, President, NZ Chapter

EIANZ Conference – Christchurch, New Zealand

Working on the Frontier: Environmental Sustainability in Practice

28 March – 1 April 2005
Hotel Grand Chancellor

Online brochure and registration:
www.conferenceteam.co.nz/eianz

FROM THE CONFERENCE ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Next Year's Conference looks set to be a real success, with an excellent line-up of key-note speakers from both sides of the Tasman addressing today's issues we practitioners face "working on the frontier". Our sponsors have shown exceptional confidence in the success of the Conference, with the level of sponsorship exceeding our most optimistic predictions. Like us they expect this Conference will attract environmental professionals from a broad range of disciplines for what will be a stimulating range of papers and speeches.

The response to requests for papers has also been overwhelming and we have been placed in the difficult position of having to turn away quality papers to fit the limit of fifty. These will be presented in ten sessions of five concurrent streams, with a field trip included during the conference and theme dinners, as well as a "Mystery" Conference Dinner, to allow plenty of variety and networking opportunities. It'll be a great opportunity for you to meet others with similar interests from both sides of the Tasman.

I encourage every member to enrol now, and use this opportunity to roll out the Institute to fellow practitioners. There's a special new members package on offer, and together with the advertising and media interest as well as the recently announced certification programme, provides you the ideal opportunity to grow the number of members in your area.

Leo Fietje
Conference Chair

Professional Certification

The Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand (EIANZ) - and the Launch of the Certified Environmental Practitioner Programme (CEnvP)

Prof. Ian Spellerberg, EIANZ Certification Board Member

The establishment of the EIANZ New Zealand Chapter filled a gap for three reasons. Firstly it is an environmental institute, secondly it is interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary, and thirdly the EIANZ has recently launched a Certification Programme for environmental practitioners.

The CEnvP comes after three years of solid work, consultation research and discussion. This is a very important milestone for both the environment and for environmental practitioners.

The Certification Programme has been welcomed by the Minister for the Environment, Marion Hobbs who said:

"Environmental Professionals are important providers of advice on environmental practice in the public and private sectors. It is important that such advice is based on high standards of practice. I therefore support the EIANZ professional Certification Programme as a means of underpinning and advancing high and higher standards of practice" (Marion Hobbs, October 2004).

There is now a formal Certification Board. Certification Panels are being established throughout Australia and there will be one certification Panel in New Zealand. The New Zealand Panel is currently being established.

To qualify for the CEnvP you will need:

- an environmentally related degree
- five years of relevant environmental experience over the past ten years
- three referees prepared to vouch for your skills, performance and professional conduct
- a signed statement of ethical conduct
- commitment to a minimum over two years of 50 hours of continued professional development
- additional supporting evidence including two referee reports.

There is further information about the Certification Programme on the Web site (<http://www.eianz.org/nz1.html>). Alternatively please contact either Ian Spellerberg (spelleri@lincoln.ac.nz) or Peter Skelton (Skeltonp@lincoln.ac.nz).

Activities Across the Country

Our seminars and workshops between August and November have had the Minister for the Environment, Office of the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment and Ministry for the Environment present and facilitating discussions on the proposed changes to the RMA, NZ Coastal Policy Statement and the role of science in environmental management.

New members of the NZ Chapter Executive Committee:

Mike O'Connell, *Secretary*

Mike O'Connell works as a sustainable building scientist with BRANZ Ltd in Porirua. With a background in chemistry, he has subsequently worked in environmental science for about 12 years in the fields of air quality, environmental management systems, urban sustainability and the impact of climate change on buildings. Those of you who have been attending the Wellington seminars know Mike who has been organising them for over a year. Mike has been one of the most devoted and active members, and he is sure to make a valuable contribution to the Committee. In addition to his secretarial duties, Mike has undertaken to process New Zealand membership applications – thank you Mike!

David Clendon, *Committee member*

David is a Programme Director for the Bachelor of Resource Management at Unitec where he has taught resource management and landscape architecture since 1999. Iwi affiliations: Ngapuhi.

New faces that you will hear from:

Jan Weaver, *Auckland branch events organiser*

Jan is a student of the Bachelor of Resource Management at Unitec, one of the recipients of the Green Ribbon Award by the Ministry for the Environment, and an active community worker in the area of ecological restoration. Jan is graduating this year and will be presenting at the EIANZ conference in Christchurch.

Thanks and a big round of applause to:

Dr Johanna Rosier, for the establishment and building of the NZ Chapter. Johanna has been on the initial Steering Committee, has been a member of the Executive Committee as a Vice-President, took care of the newsletter as an editor, NZ Chapter website and was on the initial Conference Organising Committee.

Victoria Keene, for her work at the Chapter office in providing a good service to the members. She was a cheerful, efficient and co-operative member of the team who will be missed in this role, but here talents are being utilised on the Conference Organising Committee.

Contributions From Members

By Mike O'Connell, BRANZ Ltd and EIANZ Secretary

Adapting the built environment to climate change

BRANZ is about to release a guidance manual provides information on the adaptation of the New Zealand built environment to the impacts of climate change. It is designed to help government agencies and the building and construction industry to, firstly, understand the key impacts that climate change will have on the built environment, and secondly, begin planning and implementing integrated adaptation strategies to future-proof New Zealand's built assets and protect the communities of which they are a part.

The Ministry for the Environment recognises the need to prepare NZ (in all sectors) for climate change. Its recent Statement of Intent 2004-07 states '*NZ manages the risks, opportunities and impacts arising from the effects of climate change*'. This guidance manual is also a companion document to the New Zealand Climate Change Office's recent publications (downloadable from <http://www.climatechange.govt.nz/resources/local-govt/guidance.html>).

Mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions and measures to stabilise atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases is only part of the answer to tackling climate change. Adaptation to a warming climate is also vital – and the sooner adaptive measures are taken, the better prepared the population (and the built environment) will be to any number of more dramatic weather events and worsening climatic trends.

Why adapt the built environment? Houses especially play a fundamental role in our lives but any strong connection to environmental impacts beyond the home is rarely made. This disconnection is still apparent: buildings are, and continue to be, great consumers of resources and generators of waste. Additionally, people spend 95% of their time in, or moving around, the built environment which suggests buildings are indeed a key part of the debate on climate change assessment and decision-making though this has been largely overlooked until now. If buildings are not built or retrofitted now to deal with both the present *and* future climate, an unsustainable situation will get progressively worse and present formidable problems for both this generation and the next.

The direct impacts of climate change include those that precipitate physical building or infrastructure failures that would not otherwise have occurred; indirect impacts include changes to society, behaviour and institutions as a result of efforts to future-proof various elements of the built environment. The three key direct risks for New Zealand's built environment are: coastal and inland flooding, building overheating and tropical cyclones.

'*Climate Change Adaptation: guidance on adapting New Zealand's built environment for the impacts of climate change*' will be available in November from the BRANZ website (<http://www.branz.co.nz>) or contact Mike O'Connell (MikeOConnell@branz.co.nz) for details.

Recent graduate student research at International Pacific College

by Rick Fisher PhD LLB, MEIANZ Palmerston North member

The International Pacific College (IPC) in Palmerston North has been running a Masters of International Studies (Environment) programme since 2000. Students can join the programme for a year in order to gain a postgraduate diploma, or stay on a second year in order to complete a masterate by way of thesis or executive strategic project. The following are some recent student projects:

Li Pheng Ooi from Malaysia successfully defended her thesis in September, titled "*Prospects for mandatory environmental reporting in New Zealand*"

Vi Vien Koay from Malaysia has been working with the Pesticides Action Network - Asia Pacific, conducting a policy analysis of educational pesticide programmes for grassroots rural organisations in Malaysia and other Pacific Rim countries.

Yun-Chin Hsu is from Taiwan. She has been engaged in an executive project for Palmerston North City Council, running a comprehensive survey of residents' attitudes and beliefs respecting solid waste management and recycling.

Ai Lin Chua is a Malaysian student presently working for IPC. She is helping IPC via an executive project placement to research and assemble all of the documentation for a proposed degree endorsement in ecotourism. The College expects to approach the NZQA for accreditation in early 2005.

Daniel Lee is from Korea. He has been busy trying to wrap his mind around the concept of "amicus curiae" - friend of the court - to see how environmental amicus briefs have been treated by the WTO and NAFTA tribunals. Part of his research has involved investigating briefs from the long running Methanex v U.S.A. legal saga under NAFTA rules.

Meilinia Putisari has just launched a research project that seeks to provide linkages between the Clean Development Mechanism (under the Kyoto Protocol), Landcare's new carbon sequestration calculator (E-Manage), and Horizon.MW's land management database. Meilinia hopes to gain practical training in calculating carbon sinks, particularly in respect to land that can be retired from farming, and take that knowledge back to her home country of Indonesia.

These are just some of the recent graduate student research at IPC. There are several more students about to embark on second year research, after completing the obligatory first year courses. We would be happy to provide contact details if any members are interested in obtaining more information about our current research.

Greening the US economy: progress?

By Dr Ralph Chapman, Maarama Consulting

Summary of presentation given at the Wellington branch meeting in September

Ralph gave a personal view, drawing on his regular monitoring of US environmental policy since studying at Princeton University some years ago, and a recent visit to the US as part of an international team reviewing US environmental performance. He began by noting the sheer size of the US economy (incomes per capita are about 45% above the OECD average)

and population (295 million) and the far-reaching and often global effects of US economic and environmental policies.

The central issue addressed was: Is some greening of the US economy going on? The answer offered was yes, some is taking place, but it is slow, and some setbacks have occurred, especially in recent years. An important question is whether environmental pressures are increasing more slowly than economic growth, or are falling (what is called “decoupling”). The answer is that there is some significant decoupling, for example, several types of air pollution are falling, with real progress in some states. The pressures on water are still problematic, with some increasing, however. Climate change action is very slow, despite the large environmental risks.

More thinking is needed, Ralph concluded, about ‘system effects’ and consumption patterns, although there are positive signs, such as the ‘smart growth’ movement. For example, urban development, transport patterns, greenhouse emissions and quality of life are closely linked. And much remains to be done to ensure that sectoral policies (e.g. energy policies) take into account environmental consequences. A PowerPoint of the talk is available from Ralph at ralph.chapman@paradise.net.nz.

Growing for good

Nick Potter, PCE

A major investigation into whether New Zealand farmers can keep growing more and more food from the same areas of land has just been released. *Growing for good: Intensive farming, sustainability, and New Zealand’s environment* is the latest report from the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment. It was launched in Hamilton on November 3.

Growing for good examines key trends across farming sectors including dairying, sheep and beef, horticulture and viticulture. It looks in particular at the increasing use of nitrogen-based fertilisers and irrigation to farm more intensively and the impacts of these trends on New Zealand’s waterways. The report draws on extensive research and interviews with over 150 New Zealand farmers, researchers, environmentalists, scientists, and government agencies.

The report concludes with a number of recommendations. Some of these are directed at short-term ‘fixes’ to address environmental damage, while others promote the need for much more fundamental redesign of farming and the forces that drive the way farmers operate.

Growing for good should interest a wide cross-section of New Zealanders – from farmers to anglers, and researchers to decision makers.

Copies can be requested from report@pce.govt.nz, or the PCE website: www.pce.govt.nz from November 3.

Membership

All enquiries regarding membership of the EIANZ in New Zealand should be directed to:

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Urgently needed: newsletter editor

Have your say in the matters of environmental profession in New Zealand. Take an active role in the activities of the NZ Chapter. Bring your initiative and make it happen!

If you would like to take part in the activities of the NZ Chapter, please contact any of the Executive members nearest to you.

New Zealand Chapter Executive Committee Members

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