



ENVIRONMENT  
INSTITUTE OF  
AUSTRALIA AND  
NEW ZEALAND

OCTOBER 2007

# NZ Chapter NEWSLETTER

An Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand Publication

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## EP3 - the Third Wave of Environmental Practice

Uncertainty - flexibility - integration - competence - communication.

I think that these are the five words that we heard most often during the three EP3 events in New Zealand as more than 35 speakers gave us their views on the future of the environment and environmental practice over the next 20 years. Over 150 people attended in total.

EP3 events were held in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch in mid-September as part of the Institute's 20th Anniversary celebrations and were undoubtedly a great success for the Chapter.

Over three days we brought together professionals from widely differing backgrounds - including science, law, local and central government, teaching, research, social science, planning, industry and commerce. One of the comments received regularly was that participants found it most interesting to hear speakers from outside their own area of expertise - especially the opportunity to hear those from industry giving us practical examples of how they are dealing with a changing environment and changing public expectations.

The format at each venue was a mix of keynote addresses, short case studies and open discussions. Jeannette Fitzsimons recorded an opening address for each city (thus saving air miles as she pointed out) talking about the need for competent environmental professional approaches to dealing with issues in the coming years. In Wellington Dr Nick Smith set out the National Party's Blue-Green Vision.

We were particularly pleased to hear from an Environment Court Judge at each venue. One theme that came through their addresses was a recognition that a wider range of tools may be used by the Court in future to enable expert witnesses to provide it with advice about matters on which there is not 100% certainty or agreement.

Uncertainty was a common theme and in workshops we agreed that more

## Events/Important dates

*December*

Closing date for items for the  
Next NZ Chapter newsletter:  
*Monday 3 December, 5pm.*  
eianznews@gmail.com

**NB: New email above**

flexible approaches to environmental management will be needed to respond to change.

We will also need to work in a more integrated way. The problems that we face are complex - everything connects to everything else - and solutions will need to reflect social, cultural, ecological and economic inputs. And to do this we will increasingly need to be able to communicate across disciplines and with the public and politicians.

There was a strong emphasis in discussions on the importance of giving good advice - of professionals recognising where their expertise lies and where to bring in others. The importance of standards for practice was confirmed.

A feature of each day was a short workshop led by Bill Haylock, the Institute President. Bill was seeking input from practitioners about the seriousness of key issues, and the opportunities or impediments we face as professionals dealing with them. The information from all the EP3 days will be collated and form the basis of on-going policy development by the Institute.

The NZ events were so successful because of the hard work of a few Chapter members (helped by some people who have not yet joined!). I would like to thank Belinda van Eyndhoven, Gabi Torkington, Susan Chapman, Jo Buckner, Steph Brown and Claire Penman in particular for their help - and to their teams of helpers at each venue. Danielle Bolton and Vanessa McKenzie from Central Office coordinated administration and logistics.

It was a little disappointing that very low number of members attended - but the upside is that we gained a large number of new members who can take up the special membership offer for each day. And we did get a large number of volunteers to help on Institute sub-committees.

The EP3 series finished in Sydney on October 19th. After that, presentations from each event will be posted on the web-site, workshops outcomes will be analysed, and sub-committee volunteers will be contacted.

I think that the events will be a catalyst for the Chapter's activities over the next year and look forward to being able to meet the expectations they generated.

*Judith Roper-Lindsay*

### Other items of interest

The Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (IEEM) has just launched its new website at [www.ieem.net](http://www.ieem.net). This new and improved site is full of useful information for both members and non-members.

### Auckland EP3 - 17 September

The New Zealand EP3 Roadshows kicked off at SkyCity in Auckland on the 17th of September. The focus of the day was balancing the economy and the environment with a wide range of speakers discussing issues ranging from how economics can be used to help environmental professionals to what skills environmental professionals will need in the future, carbon trading and sustainable business practice.

Around 50 people attended, a number even made the commute from as far away as Tauranga. A long but rewarding day concluded with drinks and socialising. Feedback received was positive and some key points from the day included:

- Vehicles - think new and think small if you want to make a contribution to both clean air and climate change
- Consumers are now actively seeking innovative solutions that resonate their values and beliefs
- You can have a sustainable business that is profitable too!
- A company's environmental practices have a big influence on whether you buy their products or not
- One of the main roles of an environmental professional is to provide objective information about effects, and the trade-offs between various dimensions of sustainability, to increase the number of options available for the community and decision makers and build community consent for the decisions being made on behalf of the wider community.

### Wellington EP3 - 19 September

Like the Auckland EP3 Roadshow two days earlier, the Wellington forum on 19 September also focused on balancing economic and environmental outcomes. A diverse range of speakers delivered extremely interesting presentations and participated in lively panel discussions ably chaired by Judy Lawrence.

Feedback from the 60+ participants included "Good overview of key current issues and environmental sustainability", "Extremely stimulating mix of speakers - most valuable one-day seminar that I have attended", "Very impressed with seminar - well worthwhile".

Judy summed up the day's proceedings with the following key points made by the speakers for the Institute and environmental professionals:

- Leadership is necessary, including leading by example
- Collaboration: Cooperate with other professional bodies
- Engage with the right people
- Facilitate and negotiate

**EIANZ NZ Chapter  
Sub-Committees**

*Publicity and Promotion  
Coordinator:*  
Vacant

*Policy and Program  
Coordinator:*  
Vacant

*Finance, Sponsorship &  
Corporate Matters  
Coordinator:*  
Leo Fietje  
Leo.Fietje@ecan.govt.nz

*Branch  
Coordinators:*  
Kristina Healy, Auckland  
Kristina.healy@maunsell.com  
Judith Roper-Lindsay, Christchurch  
judithrl@boffamiskell.co.nz

Susan Chapman - Wellington  
[Chapman\\_susan@bah.com](mailto:Chapman_susan@bah.com)

*Certification Coordinator:*  
Ian Spellerberg  
spelleri@lincoln.ac.nz

*Newsletter Editor*  
Sarah Pritchett  
[elianznews@gmail.com](mailto:elianznews@gmail.com)

**Membership Secretary**  
Eric Scott  
mescott@clear.net.nz

**NZ representatives on EIANZ  
Standing Committees**

**Policy and Practice SC:**  
Vacant

**External relations SC:**  
Rex Verity  
VerityR@cpit.ac.nz

**Impact Assessment SC:**  
Leo Fietje  
Leo.Fietje@ecan.govt.nz

**Membership Promotion SC:**  
Belinda van Eyndhoven  
Belinda.vanEyndhoven@beca.com

- Understand social behaviours and how to communicate accurately
- and honestly with the community
- Demystify the science
- Bridge the gap between resource users and local authorities
- Be diverse and challenge yourself.

**EP3 in Christchurch - September 21**

The theme for the Christchurch event was “Primary Production - sustainable business: sustainable environment.” reflecting one of the South Island’s significant issues.

The morning session provided a national context on possible environmental futures. Judge Jon Jackson provided a personal view of the different levels of proof required by science and by the Courts, and how this might develop in future, while Dr Bob Frame gave a rapid overview of climate change issues globally and locally. A panel of local speakers - Dr Charles Pearson, Dr Stefanie Rixecker, and Dr Lin Roberts discussed three aspects of a future environment - the climate and especially water availability, social and cultural contexts, and a sustainable business environment.

The afternoon sessions focussed on practical solutions. Dr Ian Whitehouse gave an outline of the Canterbury Strategic Water study, then a panel of Lew Metcalfe (Fonterra), Peter Weir (Ernslaw One), Professor Steve Wratten (Greening Waipara) and Dr Stephen Goldson (Ag Research) looked at commercial management and research in progress.

There was long and good discussion on all the topics - water and farming always promote debate in Canterbury and the subjects warrant more discussions amongst professionals in future which the local branch hopes to promote.

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**EIANZ and CEnvP awards in Sydney**

At the AGM Gala Dinner in Sydney the Institute and CEnvP programme for the first time recognised outstanding work with a series of awards.

**Dr David Hogg** is the inaugural winner of the Simon Molesworth Award for an outstanding contribution to the development of the EIANZ and the environment profession at the national level. In making the award Institute President Bill Haylock said “David has made a wonderful contribution to EIANZ, being a foundation member and office bearer. His consistent hard work has been a key in the Institute being where it is today”.

**Mr Simon Cavendish** is the inaugural winner of the Mary Lou Morris Award for an outstanding contribution for the development of the EIANZ and the

environment profession at the divisional (state) level. "Simon's clear and consistent focus has been a shining light that has helped ensure the Institute is soundly based on a sustainable business model", according to Institute Bill Haylock, who presented the award.

**Dr Scott Thompson** is the inaugural winner of the Tor Hundloe Award for a young environmentalist whose professional work has led to environmental excellence. In receiving the award Dr Thompson advised his colleagues to "set your professional standards at a high level and keep them there, especially if you come under pressure from developers".

The Eric Anderson Award for the best article published in the *Australasian Journal of Environmental Management* during 2006-07 went to "Enabling change for corporate sustainability: an integrated perspective" by **Suzanne Benn, Dexter Dunphy and Andrew Griffiths**.

**Dr Hugh Lavery** is the inaugural winner of the Certified Environmental Practitioner of the Year Award. Currently in his 50th year of professional practice, Dr Lavery has been a pioneer in the environmental field. He helped establish modern nature conservation with his work in Queensland back in the 1950s, and 20 years ago lead the way in advising corporate Australia on its management of the environment.

At the same occasion **Professor Peter Skelton** was awarded Honorary Fellowship of the Institute in recognition of his work for the Institute and for the New Zealand Chapter in particular. Peter stepped down from the position of Vice-President (New Zealand) at the Institute's AGM the previous day.

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#### **Committee changes....**

You will notice that there are a number of changes to representation on sub-committees and some vacancies.

First, we are pleased to welcome Kristina Healy from Auckland onto the Executive - Kristina was invited to fill one of the places left vacant after the AGM. She works for Maunsell, and is currently also working part-time on a Post Graduate Diploma.

Kristina is also going to act as co-ordinator for the Auckland Branch. And in the Wellington Branch, please note that Susan Chapman has recently changed jobs, so her email address is now: chapman\_susan@bah.com .

Pene Burns is stepping down from the External Relations Committee and we

are looking for someone to sit on this alongside Rex Verity to represent the New Zealand position. And there are also vacancies on the Policy and Practice Committee. Many of you volunteered for this at the EP3 events, and we will be in touch on this shortly.

If you would like to help the Chapter and Institute by working on one of the sub-committees, do check out what they do on the web-site then either contact the Committee chair direct or me for details.

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### **Desperately Seeking...**

We have lost contact with a number of members because their email addresses appear to have changed or they aren't getting emails from Eric because they need to add his email address to their "safe" list. That probably means that they won't be receiving this newsletter! So if you know of any of the following people please can you let Eric Scott know how to contact them on [mescott@clear.net.nz](mailto:mescott@clear.net.nz). Thanks:

[carl.ali@wellingtonzoo.com](mailto:carl.ali@wellingtonzoo.com) (Carl Ali)  
[richard.fitzpatrick@trc.govt.nz](mailto:richard.fitzpatrick@trc.govt.nz) (Richard Fitzpatrick)  
[shunt@chevron.com](mailto:shunt@chevron.com) (Simon Hunt)  
[johnderek@xtra.co.nz](mailto:johnderek@xtra.co.nz) (John Lowe)  
[claudemidgley@envirowaste.co.nz](mailto:claudemidgley@envirowaste.co.nz) (Claude Midgley)  
[c.stumbles@hotmail.com](mailto:c.stumbles@hotmail.com) (Craig Stumbles)  
[emma.williams@mfe.govt.nz](mailto:emma.williams@mfe.govt.nz) (Emma Williams)

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### **Newsletter Columnists Sought**

I'm seeking people to provide regular columns to this newsletter. Topics could be "Latest in Sustainability Research" or the "Latest Sustainable Management Projects" or anything else relevant to the EIANZ. Book and or movie reviews are also welcome.

Please contact Sarah at [eianznews@gmail.com](mailto:eianznews@gmail.com)

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