



# NZ Chapter NEWSLETTER

An Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand Publication

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*Happy holidays to you all from the Editor, Branch Co-ordinators and the Executive Committee — we look forward to meeting up with you all at one of our events and activities in 2008.*

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## **Executive meetings**

The NZ Chapter Executive met (by phone conference call) in October and November. Some of the main things covered were:

A welcome to the new Councillor for the New Zealand Chapter — Jo Buckner (read more about Jo on page 2). Jo will represent the Chapter alongside Australian Divisional representatives at the regular meetings of the full Institute Council — most of the meetings are by phone but there are two “face to face” meetings each year. Jo is also an ex officio member of the New Zealand Executive Committee.

A decision was made to employ (on contract) a part-time “Activities Co-ordinator” early in the New Year. This person will be responsible for organising Chapter events, such as training sessions, that can be held across the country. The details of the job-description and responsibilities will be finalised over the next two months and advertised at the end of January. This should enable the Chapter to upgrade its provision of CPD.

Eric Scott has reported a steady increase in membership over the year. Belinda van Eyndhoven will attend the meeting of the Institute’s Membership Promotion Standing Committee in Melbourne at the end of November where a wide range of initiatives, including targeted promotion activities, will be discussed. She will also discuss processing of New Zealand membership applications with Debbie Howell, the membership officer, to find ways to make it a speedier and more efficient process.

The Chapter Executive also agreed in principle to make a series of awards to students. Ian Spellerberg and Kristina Healy will work on the details of these and a final decision will be made at the next Council meeting.

The next Executive meeting will be our annual “face to face” all day meeting and will be held in Christchurch on Friday 15 February 2008.

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## Events/Important dates

### January

Wellington: 24 Jan, 5pm  
Mini food fair at Commonsense

### February

Christchurch: 13 Feb, 5pm:  
Stefanie Rixecker talk

Closing date for items for the  
First 2008 newsletter:  
Monday 4 Feb, 5pm.  
eianznz@gmail.com

### April

Christchurch: 16 April, 5pm  
Mark Hostetler talk

## New Exec Member

**Kristina Healy** has recently been co-opted onto the Executive Committee. Kristina is a Consultant with Maunsell's Environmental Management & Planning group based in Auckland. Kristina has a breadth of experience in parks and reserves management, communications, project management and sustainable development tools and systems in both local government and business consulting. She has managed contracts for parks and reserves maintenance and capital projects, and has experience in environmental, contract management, and auditing of site works, including stormwater and sediment control and protection of sensitive ecological environments.

Kristina recently joined the institute and is the only Auckland-based member of the Executive. She hopes to be able to build the exposure of the institute in Auckland and provide members with opportunities for networking and training. Kristina is also completing her Postgraduate Diploma in Environmental Management through the University of Auckland and so provides a dual perspective as a Consultant and part time student (see *EIANZ Member Profile on page 8 for more about Kristina*).

## New Institute Councillor



**Jo Buckner** has been appointed as the Councillor for the New Zealand Chapter of EIANZ. Originally from Marlborough and now based in Wellington, Jo is a strategic policy generalist who works on environmental and sustainable energy issues. She is a “join the dots” person who works in areas where the problems tend to be systemic and new solutions are needed.

Some years ago, Jo decided to follow her heart, become a professional truck driver and study extramurally for a business degree – choices that led to a supply chain career culminating in the role of Order Fulfillment Director at Fletcher Wood Panels in Auckland, New Zealand.

A short stint working in the United Arab Emirates fuelled a growing environmental conscience and Jo undertook postgraduate studies in natural resource management. She joined the public sector in 2002 when she took on the role of transport advisor with the Energy Efficiency & Conservation Authority (EECA).

In 2003, she joined the Ministry of Transport where she managed the rapid development of the environmental policy team. As Group Manager, Jo was involved in leading the Ministry's policy development in relation to energy, climate change and other environmental impacts of transport.

During 2006/07 Jo returned to EECA to lead the development of the New Zealand Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy (NZECS). Then looking for new challenges, she joined the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in July of this year to work on establishing distributed electricity

## EIANZ NZ Chapter Sub-Committees

Publicity and Promotion  
Coordinator:  
*Vacant*

Policy and Program  
Coordinator:  
*Vacant*

Finance, Sponsorship &  
Corporate Matters  
Coordinator:  
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Branch  
Coordinators:  
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*Susan Chapman - Wellington*  
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NZ representatives on EIANZ  
Standing Committees

Policy and Practice SC:  
*Vacant*

External relations SC:  
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Impact Assessment SC:  
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generation from renewable energy sources as a viable alternative to lines supply in rural areas.

Outside work, Jo is married to Garry and has four fur-babies – two Dobermans and two Tonkinese cats. She is also a keen motorcyclist and has a range of creative pursuits, including organic vegetable gardening. Ask about her garlic and the new tractor some time!

## Branch Activities for 2008

### Wellington

The Wellington branch is avoiding the pre-Christmas function fatigue by holding a "Start the year with a resolution" function after work on **Thursday 24 January**. We are excited to advise that Commonsense Organics is hosting our first event of 2008 at which Marion Wood, the Managing Director, will speak to us. We are working on the exact details with Commonsense Organics at the moment, but are hoping this will be a 'mini food fair' with the opportunity to try some of the huge range of wonderful products in store. This will be a popular event and a great way to start the year, so we look forward to seeing members and prospective members there.

Details will be emailed very shortly. In the mean time please visit [www.commonsensorganics.co.nz](http://www.commonsensorganics.co.nz) to find out more about Commonsense Organics and the location of its shops in Wellington, Kilbirnie, Lower Hutt and Kapiti.

*Susan Chapman and Jo Buckner*

### Christchurch

Dr Stefanie Rixecker from Lincoln University will be speaking on "Future Social Scenarios for Sustainable Management in New Zealand" at Environment Canterbury, Kilmore Street, Christchurch on **13 February 2008** at 5 pm.

Dr Mark Hostetler from the University of Florida will be speaking on "Thoughts, Issues & Research on Developing Sustainable Communities" at the Waiiau Theatre, Environment Canterbury, Kilmore Street, Christchurch on **16 April 2008**, 5 pm.

## Peter Skelton made Honorary Fellow of EIANZ

Last month's newsletter announced the award of the position of Honorary Fellow to Peter Skelton at the Gala Dinner held in Sydney in October.

This is a significant occasion in the life of the Institute, for the New Zealand Chapter and for Peter himself, because it is the highest award given by the Institute and is only given for outstanding and exceptional contribution to the environmental profession. Paragraph 2 of the By-law setting out the criteria for this award states:

*The contribution of the nominee to the environmental profession should be exceptional compared with other existing or potential Fellows. It is anticipated that such contribution would be made over a large part of the nominee's working life, and would significantly influence the development of the profession, or the professional approach towards the attainment of ecologically sustainable development and/or environmental best practice.*

The Executive of the New Zealand Chapter considered, and the Fellows Committee of the Institute agreed, that Peter has fulfilled this criterion over what have effectively been three separate careers. Peter spent the first 15 years as a partner in a legal firm and then as a barrister role, specialising in planning and environmental law. Then followed 22 years as a Judge and Chairman of the No3 Division of the Planning Tribunal, later renamed the Environment Court, followed by six years teaching and examining environmental law at Lincoln University.

In each of these careers Peter distinguished himself and this was recognised when he was promoted to the judiciary after his career as Barrister; when he was awarded the New Zealand Order of Merit after his time on the bench; and when he was made Honorary Professor by Lincoln University. He is also an Honorary Life Member of the Resource Management Law Association and in 2000 the New Zealand Planning Institute awarded Peter the AO Glasse Award for outstanding service to planning by a non-planner, an award he personally places considerable value on.

In addition to these careers Peter was the first chair of the Environmental Legal Assistance Fund for the Ministry for the Environment and fulfilled that role for 6 years. He has also acted as an adviser to central and local government for the last 7 years and continues with that. He has been a member of the International Bar Association (Committee F Environmental Law) and presented papers and participated in international conferences in Washington DC on mining law; Hobart University on enforcement; and Montreux in Switzerland on enforcement. He has also presented papers on planning and resource management issues to a number of professional conferences in New Zealand and been guest speaker at numerous functions involving environmental professionals.

It is not surprising therefore that the Fellows Committee unanimously awarded Peter his award. Peter's willingness to invest in the next generation of practitioners by becoming involved in the Institute and so providing a professional home for many of his students, at a time when many practitioners would be looking to take life easier, is commendable and it would be fair to say that without Peter's influence and reputation the NZ Chapter would have had considerable more difficulty becoming a credible professional body in New Zealand. His willingness to stick with and

support the Institute during some very difficult times is a demonstration of his unselfish devotion to the future of the profession.

Peter's love and respect for the law are clearly evident in all his professional dealings. During his time as Judge Peter was highly respected for his capacity to absorb large volumes of information and deliver succinct and lucid judgments. A number of cases he decided are still widely cited as case law today. He furthered the professions understanding of sustainable management and had a particular ability to uncover unjustified claims to expertise, an ability he subsequently used very successfully in his teaching career and professional seminars. He did not suffer fools and was widely respected for that, to the point that it became a badge of honour for practitioners to have appeared before Peter and come away with their reputation intact. His reputation as a fearless defender of not just doing the right thing, but being seen to be doing so, remains with him to this day.

The profession and the Institute has benefited immensely from Peter's contributions.

*Leo Fietje*

*Peter also generously managed to find time to proofread this Newsletter for me when I first took on the role as Editor – Sarah Pritchett*

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### **Mentoring**

The Institute offers a mentoring service for young professionals (see [www.eianz.org](http://www.eianz.org) for full details). This recognises that students and recent graduates have long been in need of guidance on leaving study and the EIANZ is acting to ensure its members get all the help and support they require.

The transition from university to the work place can be difficult to say the least. Many students and recent graduates are faced with decisions that, for the most, they are not prepared for: where to look for work; how to get their foot in the door; whether to undertake further education; what environmental discipline to pursue.

The EIANZ mentoring programme for students or recent graduate members, gives a helping hand on the way to a successful and rewarding career. We endeavour to match students or recent graduates with an EIANZ member who is a senior professional working in a relevant discipline.

Each Full and Fellow member can contribute to the professional development and advancement of a Student or Recent Graduate EIANZ member.

Mentors are members who are currently working within the environment industry who are able to provide advice and guidance. Mentors can advise students or recent graduates on many relevant issues that will help them in the work force.

On the other end of the scale, senior professionals may like to seize the opportunity to find out what it is like to be a graduate today; what issues students are faced with; what topics feature in current university courses; what employment opportunities are available and what issues face someone just starting out in the work force. Or senior professionals may simply have the desire to share their knowledge and wealth of experience to help those who are just starting out in their professional careers.

All EIANZ members are eligible to take part in the EIANZ mentor program. Mentor guidelines are available from the EIANZ head office or from the web-site.

To take part in the mentor program please contact one of the NZ Chapter Executive members. For more information on Mentoring, see the Guidelines for Mentoring, and Mentoring Application Form on the web-site.  
Guidelines for mentoring

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## **Ecosystem Services**

*This article on Ecosystem Services is the first of a series of regular columns on Environmental Management to be contributed by Ross Cullen of Lincoln University.*

Environmental practitioners are often exhorted to consider cultural, social, environmental and economic aspects in their work. An alternative to that four part categorisation is found in the recent focus on ecosystem services (ES). Ecosystems perform numerous functions. Many of those functions are valued by humans because they deliver us ES. They include such processes as biological control of pests, weeds and diseases, pollination of crops, amelioration of flooding and wind erosion, provision of food (including fisheries), the hydro-geochemical cycle, capture of carbon dioxide by plants and carbon by soil, landscapes that are enjoyed by residents and tourists. The range of ES has been grouped by the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment Ecosystem (2003) as shown below.

### **Provisioning**

Food  
Freshwater  
Wood and Fibre  
Fuel  
....

### **Cultural**

Aesthetic  
Spiritual  
Educational  
Recreational

### **Supporting**

Nutrient cycling  
Soil formation  
Primary production  
...

### **Regulating**

Climate regulation  
Flood regulation  
Disease regulation  
Water purification  
...

A paper in *Nature* by Robert Costanza et al (1997) used “value transfer” economic methods to value ES worldwide. The mid-range estimate was US\$33 trillion per annum. Costanza’s valuation stimulated much debate,

including the suggestion that US\$33 trillion is “a serious underestimate of infinity”. In other words, humankind cannot survive without ES, so estimating its total value is futile. Estimating the value of marginal changes in ES associated with proposed projects, plan or policy changes may be much more useful. A 1997 book edited by Gretchen Daily entitled *Nature’s Services* was the second pivotal publication on ES. Those two publications led to a change in the way our dependence on nature is viewed.

The idea is gaining international attention. A recent FAO publication “The state of food and agriculture” (2007) notes the importance of agriculture in the provision of ES. The FAO note that “... farmers are the largest group of natural resource managers on Earth”. Some of the ES provided from agriculture (e.g. food, wood and fibre) are priced in markets and their value well understood. Others, perhaps most, are currently unpriced and unnoticed in many instances and hence their value is poorly understood.

A focus on ES is useful because it can alert us to the need to do more than increase production and profit in commercial activities. Avoiding damage to one ES may be as socially valuable as increasing another ES. Ecosystem services provide a framework that may provide us insights that are hidden by the current fragmentation into cultural, social, environmental and economic values.

#### *References*

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### **EIANZ Member Profile**



**Name:** Kristina Healy

**Location:** Auckland

**Organisation work for and position:** Maunsell – Environmental Consultant

**How does your work contribute to sustainable management of the environment?** In all projects I am involved in I promote sustainable development options to clients and manage projects in such a way to reduce waste and environmental impacts. Low impact design is a particular focus for my team.

**Biggest environmental challenge currently facing Aotearoa and why:** Consumer behaviour, whether it is what people are buying or how much water or electricity they are using. The real environmental costs are not

incorporated in to most pricing structures therefore consumers (us!) don't appreciate the full life cycle impacts the manufacturing, use and disposal of a product may have. The real costs of services are not appreciated either. If consumers were more aware of the impact their purchasing patterns and consumption behaviour has on the environment there would be more demand for accountability and transparency of companies.

**How do you think EIANZ can help to meet these challenges?** The EIANZ membership is diverse, and networking events and discussion groups can facilitate the exchange of ideas, and opportunities to explore different approaches and understand different perspectives. Formal training sessions also build the knowledge base for professionals in the environmental field.

**Environmental superheroes and heroines:** The Wombles, their motto says it all “make good use of bad rubbish”.

**Glass half full or half empty view of future of Earth and why:** Definitely half full – I have to be an optimist otherwise the reality of the extent and severity of problems is far too depressing and demotivating. We need to continue to focus on solutions and creating a world we can be proud of.

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**We wish you a sustainable Christmas, so you can have many new years....**

Buy **Made In NZ** gifts to support local industry and reduce the impacts of global transportation. NZ made products are generally well marked and can be found from the Warehouse through to stylish art galleries - even better, go to local craft fairs.

Buying clothing? Buy **organic** cotton because conventional cotton crops uses approximately 25 percent of the world's insecticides and more than 10 percent of the pesticides. Make sure your organic cotton t-shirt is also sweatshop free and you'll have covered all bases. Organic food also make great gifts for the discerning foodie.

Trade Aid shops now have numerous funky gifts from all around the world that guarantee the producers have been paid a **fair trade** price. It might be best to avoid wooden products unless you are sure the wood comes from a sustainable source (I was once given a set of teak salad servers from trade Aid...). They also have lots of yummy chocolate, coffee and tea.

Checking out op shops or surfing trade me while you're supposed to be working are also good ways of finding unusual, **pre-loved goods** - like bone-handled silver cutlery for your sister who loves throwing dinner parties.

Give vouchers – for a week off chores or for 3 half hour massages or for a romantic picnic for two...the only limitations are your imagination!