



ENVIRONMENT
INSTITUTE OF
AUSTRALIA AND
NEW ZEALAND

AUGUST 2007

NZ Chapter NEWSLETTER

An Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand Publication

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Report from the 2007 AGM

Twenty-five members attended the AGM of the New Zealand Chapter of EIANZ in Christchurch on 20 July 2007. Reports were received from the President and Treasurer (see below). The Executive Committee for the year 2007-2008 was elected. The members are:

President: Dr Judith Roper-Lindsay (Boffa Miskell Ltd, Christchurch)

Vice-President: Belinda van Eynhoven (Beca, Tauranga)

Treasurer: Leo Fietje (Environment Canterbury, Christchurch)

Secretary: Rex Verity (CPIT, Christchurch)

Committee members:

Susan Chapman (Ministry of Transport, Wellington)

Diane Shelander (Christchurch City Council)

Gabi Torkington (Beca, Christchurch)

NZ Councillor: Leo Fietje

Just before the AGM, the Institute Council agreed that we can enlarge the membership of the Executive Committee of the New Zealand Chapter to the officers "plus five members", which means that there are still two vacancies on the committee. We are keen to fill these positions (especially with representatives from outside the Christchurch area). If you are interested in taking a more active role in the Chapter please get in touch with one of the existing members. We can co-opt members onto the Executive to fill positions.

Professor Peter Skelton announced to the AGM that he will be stepping down from the position of Institute Vice President (NZ) at the AGM in October. This is a role that he has carried out diligently since the formation of the New Zealand Chapter, and his wise advice at the Executive table will be missed. Nominations for the position of Vice President (NZ) are open until 27 August.

These elections bring some personnel changes. Professor Ian Spellerberg has been Vice President of the Chapter since its formation, and he has stepped down from that position, following his nomination for the position of Institute Vice President. His position has been taken over by Belinda van Eynhoven who lives in Tauranga. Belinda has been active in starting a Bay

Events/Important dates

September

Auckland: Monday 17 September
- SkyCity
Wellington: Wednesday 19
September - Duxton Hotel
Christchurch: Friday 21
September
- Rydges Hotel

February

Closing date for items for the
Next NZ Chapter newsletter:
Monday 24 September, 5pm.
sk_pritchett@yahoo.com

of Plenty Branch and is a member of the Institute’s Membership Promotion Committee. Her work in the North Island will be valuable. (See below for a profile of Belinda and other new Exec member Susan Chapman. Profiles for existing Exec members can be found in the October 2006 newsletter, which is available on the EIANZ website).

David Clendon has been active in the Chapter since its formation, and steps down after being on the Executive Committee for three years

Susan Chapman from Wellington was elected onto the committee although she and Belinda were co-opted on earlier in the year.

The AGM was followed by a short talk by Geoff Kerr (Lincoln University) on “Freshwater: Perceptions and scientific reality” based on the paper that he and co-authors Ken Hughey and Ross Cullen published in the latest *Australasian Journal of Environmental Management*. The talk prompted lively discussion about the similarities and gaps between different demographics groups, geographic bases and concerns and conversations and networking continued well into the evening over a drink and nibbles.

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Annual Report of President 2006-2007

Presented to Annual General Meeting, 20 July 2007, Christchurch

I am pleased to report on the activities of the New Zealand Chapter for the period July 2006 to July 2007. During this period our membership has grown confirming that the Institute has a sound place in representing the wide range of environmental professionals in this country. During the last 12 months there has been a huge growth in awareness bringing much more public and political discussion of environmental issues and environmental management and I believe that this will be mirrored in membership growth in coming years.

The Prime Minister’s speech in Parliament in February this year is becoming something of a landmark in the politics of the environment in New Zealand. Can I remind you that she stated that she believes that:

“New Zealand can aim to be the first nation to be truly sustainable - across the four pillars of the economy, society, the environment, and nationhood.”

And that *“we can aspire to be carbon neutral in our economy and way of life.”*

The Environment Institute is not a political body, but I think that we all

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took heart to hear this public statement of some of the things to which we think we can contribute. I wrote to the Prime Minister expressing this and I hope that as the public statement is turned into practical outcomes many of our members are involved.

This of course demands high standards of professional practice - we have to be able to provide good advice to implement the policies that emerge through programmes originating in central and local government.

One of the training initiatives that the Chapter has promised for some time took place in Auckland late last year. Gabi Torkington and Rob Savory ran the "Train the Trainers" workshop session for 36 participants. The focus was on training those people who are responsible for workplace environmental management and the course met with positive feedback from those who took part. The workshop will be held in other centres during the coming year.

This year saw the successful start for the Bay of Plenty Branch, thanks to the enthusiasm of Belinda van Eyndhoven. Since March the Branch has held monthly meetings with a range of speakers, and new members join regularly. It is encouraging to see a new branch start up in a part of the country with a rapidly growing population, which brings its own environmental issues.

Christchurch and Wellington branches also held regular meetings. In Christchurch, the Chapter sponsored the very successful two days of seminars on organics by David Holmgren organised by CPIT through Rex Verity.

Last year I indicated that I hoped to build up the Institute's links with other professional bodies throughout the year. Some people had expressed a concern that we might be seen as competitors with other organisations, but together with the Executive I have tried very hard to dispel this idea. There is a large number of professionals working in the environmental field who are not eligible to join the NZ Planning Institute, NZ Institute of Landscape Architects, Institute of Professional Engineers etc but who do need to have an organisation to represent their professional interests, provide continuing professional development, and support their understanding of the complexities of working together towards a sustainable environment. It is in these areas that I believe we should work with other professional bodies and not as competitors.

I was very pleased to be invited to the Annual Conference of the Resource Management Law Association in October and this provided an opportunity to see how these two organisations complement each other. At the local level our members take part in activities organised by a number of other

professional organisations, and work together on projects and research. This seems to me to be the best measure of successful integration. We are also in discussion with the NZ Institute of Surveyors in light of the South East Asian Surveyors Congress which will be held in Christchurch later this year.

There have been a number of changes in Chapter personnel during this year. Mike O'Connell stood down as Chapter Secretary at the last AGM and as I was overseas at the time I was unable to thank him publicly for all his hard work in that role and in the Christchurch Branch - I would like to record that now. Rex Verity stepped into the role of Secretary at that point and I must thank him for that too.

During the year, Dr Eric Scott took on the role of Membership Secretary from Brian Walsh. Although Eric had not been involved with the Chapter previously, he quickly came to grips with the database and the difficulties of liaison with our Central Office in Melbourne. I would like to thank Brian for his work for the Chapter, and Eric for making the changeover painless and professional.

The Executive can co-opt new members when needed, and early this year we co-opted Susan Chapman (from Wellington) and Belinda van Eyndhoven (Tauranga) for the purposes of "membership promotion". While it is very useful (and economic) to have a majority of the Executive Committee based in Christchurch, we believe that it is vital to have representatives from other parts of the country and Susan and Belinda bring this to the table (or more usually, telephone). Belinda also represents the NZ Chapter on the Institute's "Membership Promotion Committee" and Susan represents us at the Ministry for the Environment's "Professional Bodies Liaison" meetings in Wellington.

I would like to thank again all the members of the Chapter's Executive Committee. It is a very small group of people with a large number of tasks to carry out. Like all of us they are extremely busy in their working and personal lives and I really appreciate the time, thought and effort that they put in. I thank Ian Spellerberg for being a very supportive Chapter Vice President and looking after my role while I was overseas last year. Ian is not here tonight because he is representing the whole Institute at a meeting of IUCN Oceania Section in Wellington - he is a tireless worker for the Institute and Peter Skelton will be saying something further on this later. Ian is also stepping down from the Board of the Certified Environmental Practitioner programme and we will miss his regular reporting on that. However, Simon Beale (Queenstown) will take Ian's place on the Board at the end of this year. Since the last AGM a further 7 members of the New Zealand Chapter have become CEnvPs - they are Barbara Nebel, Ian Wiseman, Stephanie Brown, Philip Ross, Rouven Lau and Judith Roper-Lindsay. Only a very small

proportion of environmental professionals in NZ have embarked on the programme which is disappointing, since it indicates that its significance is not yet recognised by outside agencies or our members.

We are fortunate to have Leo Fietje as our Treasurer. I would like to thank him for continuing to provide sound financial advice, represent the NZ Chapter at meetings with Australian counterparts as our Councillor, and assist willingly with local Christchurch activities. I have also received tremendous support and sage advice from Peter Skelton. He also brings the wider Australian perspective to the table through his position as Institute Vice President. Peter will step down from this position later this year but we are fortunate to have an excellent successor.

Diane Shelander has taken on the administration of the New Zealand information on the web-site - dealing with web-site technology is never straightforward and I thank Diane for her patience in working with a changing web-site administration across the Tasman. Now that its teething problems are sorted out (hopefully), the site should grow as an important means of informing each other and communicating.

Gabi Torkington has put a huge amount of energy into Auckland activities, although for a variety of reasons this remains a difficult area in which to generate participation in "Branch" events. David Clendon is stepping down as an Executive member this year, and Gabi has left Auckland, so we urgently need to build our membership, presence and Executive representation in the city and northern region.

Finally I would like to thank Sarah Pritchett for producing our newsletter so efficiently - including this year's facelift. It can be hard work to elicit articles for a newsletter, but it is an important way of keeping members in touch.

New Zealand members had a high profile at the Institute's conference in Adelaide last September, giving papers and running workshops. This year's conference is the EP3 series and next year's conference will be in Perth in association with the International Association for Impact Assessment meeting.

Much of the energy and time of active members (and non-members) over the last few months has gone into the organisation of EP3 events in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch in September this year. A part-time events coordinator has been employed to organise this celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Environment Institute of Australia through this series of one-day conferences on both sides of the Tasman. I really have appreciated the way that teams in each area have risen to the occasion to organise an impressive array of speakers on a range of topics. I believe that

we are providing the opportunity for some challenging discussions - we must build on that by attracting large numbers of registrations, publicity and new members through the events.

I feel that the EP3 organisation has distracted our active members from the local programmes of CPD, training and networking - particularly in the latter months - and regret that this has had to be the case. However, I hope that other members understand this and take part in activities for the rest of the year with new enthusiasm.

The full title of EP3 is “EP3 - Environmental Professionals; Evaluating Practices; Evolving Pathways” - the aim is to look forward to the next 20 years of environmental practice and environmental management. Which brings me back to the Prime Minister’s speech. Over the last year we have all in our own way taken steps to try to ensure that all the things that she stated in February might occur - better training for practitioners; better information for policy makers and planners; more integration of our work with other professionals. A lot of this goes on quietly and “under the radar”. I think that many of the Chapter’s activities have been like that in the past year, but I am confident that we are starting to make a difference.

Judith Roper-Lindsay

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Summary of Financial Report to AGM

The Financial Accounts for the NZ Chapter show that the Chapter remains in good financial health with good reserves. The main income source is membership fees, 35% of which remain in New Zealand and the remainder transferred to Australia . A substantial proportion of amount transferred to Australia goes towards the cost of the quarterly journal. Membership fees came in particularly quickly this year, for which I thank members - it makes our job so much easier. No-one grumbled about not being able to use Credit Cards, which means we save around \$600 per annum in bank charges. For our small size, that’s substantial.

Our major costs are seminars, travel, teleconferences and membership management. It’s always good to see money spent on seminars, particularly ones run by members for the professional development of fellow members and the industry. If you’d like to run one, let someone on the Executive know and we’ll see how we can help.

The surplus for the year was \$1.2K which means our reserves now stand at a healthy \$17.2K.

Leo Fietje
Treasurer and Councillor

NZ Chapter of EIANZ

New Executive Committee Member Profiles

Susan Chapman is a founding member of the NZ Chapter of EIANZ. She is active organising and contributing to various EIANZ events in Wellington including the official launch of the Institute at Te Papa in May 2003 through to the forthcoming 20th Anniversary Wellington forum. Susan works for the Ministry of Transport running the organisation's business planning and its corporate sustainability (Govt3) programme. Out of work she can be found trying to dig the contents of her compost bin in to her minuscule inner city garden and wandering Wellington's beautiful waterfront and green belt trails with her family and friends.

Belinda van Eyndhoven is the founder of the Bay of Plenty branch of the EIANZ. She represents the NZ chapter on the Membership Promotions Committee and is a member of the Environmental Impact Assessment Special Interest Group. She is currently helping to co-ordinate the forthcoming 20th Anniversary Auckland forum. Belinda moved to Tauranga a year ago and is currently a Senior Planner at Beca Carter Hollings and Ferner Ltd. Previous to this she worked for Environment Canterbury in an environmental management role. Out of work she enjoys running, swimming and yoga - all of which she does so she can enjoy her real love...chocolate.

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Ep3: Environmental Professionals; Evaluating Practice; Evolving Pathways

Less than 6 weeks to go to the EP3 days in New Zealand! Remember the dates:

Auckland: Monday 17 September - SkyCity

Wellington: Wednesday 19 September - Duxton Hotel

Christchurch: Friday 21 September - Rydges Hotel

The programmes for the three centres are now being finalised. Keep an eye on the EIANZ web-site for updates (www.eianz.org) and also to register. We are very pleased to have confirmed that in each centre a Judge from the Environment Court will be providing a keynote address.

If you or your company is interested in providing sponsorship, for any component of an event, please get in touch with event organiser Danielle Bolton (danielle@associationsolutions.com.au) .

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EIANZ Member Profile

Name: David Coleman

Location: Whangarei, Northland

Organisation work for and position: Whangarei District Council, Policy Planner

How does your work contribute to sustainable management of the environment?

Providing advice to Council and community on issues such as biodiversity, climate change, working with Iwi, and the RMA.

Biggest environmental challenge currently facing Aotearoa and why:

Positioning sustainable land management as the underlying principle of primary production, rather than being an afterthought. Issues such as biodiversity loss, future energy crunches, water quality and quantity, the maintenance of soil fertility, and climate change are yet to find their full expression in New Zealand.

How do you think EIANZ can help to meet these challenges?

By being an information broker between differing environmental professionals of Australia and New Zealand. It provides a suitable forum for cross-professional interaction that many professional institutes struggle to achieve, thereby making it easier to connect the environmental dots.

Environmental superheroes and heroines:

The many scientists and other academics willing to write newspaper articles on important issues that will often subject them to politics.

Glass half full or half empty view of future of Earth and why:

GHF - like previous profilers, I believe that there is a growing willingness across the board for people to engage with environmental and social issues, but it's going to be a bumpy road while we wait for politics to catch up with knowledge.

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Please consider saving paper by reading this newsletter onscreen. Or print it out double-sided and leave it in your office tearoom so lots of people can read it!