



NZ Chapter NEWSLETTER

An Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand Publication

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AGM

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Apologies for the late arrival of this newsletter - I am afraid that your Editor has been experiencing computer gremlins over the last few weeks; however...here it is

Carbon Seminar and AGM

On 31 July 2008, preceding the Chapter AGM, there will be a half day seminar on Carbon Trading featuring four prominent speakers: Justin Ford-Robertson of Catalyst R&D, who has had input to global policy through advice to the IPCC and works on climate change mitigation, Clayton Wallwork of Greenco, a forestry consultant, Michael Singleton, a lawyer working on the emissions trading framework and Craig Palmer from Solid Energy. The speakers will bring us up-to-date information about the carbon emissions trading system. There will be plenty of time for questions and discussions. Full details will be circulated separately - but do put 31 July, 2-00pm to 5-00pm in your diaries now.

The New Zealand Chapter AGM will be held on Thursday 31 July 2008, at "Our City" Worcester Boulevard, Christchurch, starting at 5-15pm. (Again, full details will be sent to members later this month).

And immediately after the AGM we will join the monthly "Green Drinks" evening held in the Dux de Lux. See <http://www.greendrinks.org/> for information about "Green Drinks" in New Zealand and around the world.

Nominations for Executive Officer and Committee

We are looking for nominations for members of the NZ Chapter Executive Committee to be appointed at the AGM. If you are interested in contributing to the running of the Chapter, please do get in touch with one of the present members (see the list in this newsletter).

Judith Roper-Lindsay will step down on 31 July after two years in the position of President, so we are also seeking nominations for that position. Please contact an Exec member if you are interested in that role.

The Chapter Secretary will send out an official "call for nominations" shortly.

Events/Important dates

June

Christchurch: Green Drinks and EIANZ networking, Friday 26 June, Dux de Lux

July

Christchurch: Carbon Seminar, 31 July, 2-5pm

AGM, 31 July, 5.15pm

Green Drinks, 31 July, Immediately after the AGM, Dux de Lux

August

Christchurch: Assoc Prof David Norton talk on Biodiversity Offsetting, details to come

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

October

Melbourne: EIANZ Annual Conference, 30-31 October

Gala Dinner for EIANZ Merit Awards

October Conference

More dates for your diary . . . 30-31 October 2008, Melbourne: 2008 EIANZ Annual Conference. This year's EIANZ two-day conference will be followed by the Gala Dinner for the EIANZ Merit Awards, to be held on the night of Friday 31 October. Confirmed speakers include Professor Peter Matthews OBE who was a Founding Member of the Society for the Environment in the UK. Details will be advised shortly.

Ecology Special Interest Section

Ecologists in New Zealand are encouraged to join the Institute's newly formed Ecology Special Interest Section. The aim is to develop a group focused on ecology, under the EIANZ banner. A national focus for each country represented is essential, to maximise cohesion between states and provinces with different expertise and experience. A principle of the Ecology SIS (generally referred to as EIANZ Ecology) is to be collaborative, not competitive, with other organisations.

We need to have a balanced membership to make sure that the New Zealand ecology profession is well-represented. The group is currently led by Simon Mustoe (Applied Ecology Solutions Pty Ltd, Melbourne). Judith Roper-Lindsay and Ian Spellerberg have been working with Simon and his Australian colleagues to develop a Business Plan for the group, and a priority for actions. A successful forum on "Best Practice" was held in Melbourne in April and the group is developing a "Biodiversity Management" paper for the EIANZ Council. Judith and Ian are also working with Shona Myers, President of the NZ Ecological Society, to make closer links between the NZ Chapter and the NZ Ecological Society.

Simon's main action to date has been to establish a comprehensive website for the group and an information forum using Google Groups. You can join by sending an email to: eianzecology-subscribe@googlegroups.com (read more...) AND bookmark the noticeboard page and visit: <http://eianzecology.blogspot.com/>. A podcast and summary of the April Forum is also on the web-site

"Biodiversity management" will be one of the topic streams at the Melbourne conference in October - more information will be posted on the conference web-site as plans develop.

Currently there is no professional body for ecologists in Australasia. The UK's Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management is a relatively new and extremely successful body, providing representation, information, guidelines and standards for the practice of ecology there. The EIANZ Ecology group should develop to give the same level of support to ecologists here.

EIANZ NZ Chapter Sub-Committees

Publicity and Promotion Coordinator:
vacant

Policy and Program Coordinator:
vacant

Finance, Sponsorship & Corporate Matters Coordinator:
Leo Fietje
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Branch Building Coordinators:
Kristina Healy - Auckland
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Belinda van Eyndhoven - BoP
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Membership Secretary
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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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Belinda van Eyndhoven
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Branch Activities

Christchurch and Canterbury

There has been a series of monthly meetings in Christchurch and plans take us through to August. In March we had to make a last minute substitution as Committee member Gabi Torkington stepped in for injured colleague Gareth Ward to talk to the assembled audience on EMS (Environmental Management Systems) - the audience participated in an interactive hour of interesting discussion around what an EMS is and how it relates to New Zealand business and industry. The group talked through the wider implications of a good EMS including cleaner production, life cycle analysis, zero waste, and product stewardship and how this can make good business sense.

In April Mark Hostetler, a visiting Fulbright Scholar based at Landcare Research, presented on developing sustainable communities. Conducted in Florida, his research addressed residential growth management issues and suggested methods of engaging developers, policy makers and local communities to ensure long term management of “sustainable” residential developments. His presentation attracted a number of people with different interests which ensured a lively discussion on urban growth issues faced in greater Christchurch.

Our May speaker was Will Doughty (Environmental Manager, MWH) who spoke about three highly contrasting approaches to EIA on projects that he has worked on in Bath (England), Abu Dhabi and Republic of Lao. This prompted a good discussion about standards of impact assessment in New Zealand and how it might be improved.

The June Branch meeting will be networking at the Green Drinks (Thursday 26 June, Dux de Lux) and the EIANZ will sponsor some nibbles.

July 31 will be the Carbon Trading seminar (see elsewhere in this newsletter) and AGM.

On August 27 Associate Professor David Norton will talk about “Biodiversity Offsetting”.

Wellington

The inaugural Green Drinks in the Capital took place at the Southern Cross Hotel in Wellington on Wednesday 4 June. Organised by the NZAEE (New Zealand Association for Environmental Education) in conjunction with The Sustainability Trust, The Sustainable Business Network and Intersect, it was a great way for a pointy-headed environmental policy wonk (who me?) to mix and mingle with a range of enthusiastic and committed people involved

in on-the-ground environmental sustainability projects. The only downside was that the venue was so packed, with around 150 people elbow to elbow, I couldn't get around the room to see any of the other Wellington EIANZ members who might have been there!

The organisers plan to hold Green Drinks every 2 months - this will be a fantastic opportunity to "recharge the enthusiasm batteries" while building awareness of EIANZ in Wellington.

Jo Buckner

Bay of Plenty

The BOP had one its largest gathering of members in late May to hear Dr Erik van Eyndhoven (Ecologist, Boffa Miskell) talk about "Biodiversity Offsetting". The Branch is now planning another seminar with an ecological theme for later in the year.

Executive Committee Meetings

Over the last few months, the Exec met by phone conference call on 19 March, 30 April, 28 May and 18 June. The main points arising from those meetings (not covered elsewhere in the newsletter) were:

Membership is increasing slowly but we would like a faster rate of growth - this would enable us to provide more services to our members. The Institute has a very low profile in Auckland. However, Exec Member Susan Chapman moves there this month, and she and Kristina Healy have plans for a number of activities, including a seminar on "Ethics" for later this year.

Institute website: This has some problems but money has been set aside in the Institute's budget for 2007-2008 and an upgrade or re-design are being considered by the Institute Executive. We hope that New Zealand members will be patient and we will endeavour to keep you up to date with regular news postings until the web-site work is done.

Blueprint: Ways to use the "Blueprint" (which all members received earlier this year) have been discussed. The document is valuable since it summarises the discussions throughout Australia and New Zealand at the EP3 events, and sets out the concerns that environmental practitioners have about the challenges facing them and our ability to tackle them. Judith Roper-Lindsay, Jo Buckner and Ian Spellerberg are working with Nick Early (Restore Communications) on a strategy for media and personal contacts to make the most of the Blueprint.

The Events Co-ordinator position will be advertised shortly. This will be a short-term contract for some-one to organise CPD and other training events on a national basis.

Appointment of Chief Executive of Ministry for the Environment (Media statement from Mark Prebble, 4/6/08). The State Services Commissioner, Mark Prebble, today announced the appointment of Dr Paul Reynolds to the position of MfE. Dr Reynolds is currently the Deputy Director General (Policy) at the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, a position he has held since 2002. "Dr Reynolds' leadership, policy development, and management experience, together with his intellectual capability and personal qualities, will assist him to successfully lead the Ministry through its complex work programme. His work at the MAF developing strategies for major initiatives such as water allocation and quality policy and the proposed climate change Emissions Trading Scheme, together with his sound grasp of environmental and sustainability issues, means Dr Reynolds has a very good understanding of the sector and the issues that the Ministry for the Environment faces.



"Dr Reynolds has ten years' experience in senior management roles and leading policy development in the Public Service and has successfully led and managed very large teams. He has more than ten years' experience in leading and managing scientists and other professional staff and has credibility in the scientific sector," Mark Prebble said.

Prior to taking up his current role, Dr Reynolds spent four years as the Chief Policy Adviser in the Ministry of Research, Science and Technology. From 1992 to 1998 he was the Science Manager, Immunomolecular Plant Biology, at the Horticulture and Food Research Institute of New Zealand. Prior to this, Dr Reynolds was the Section Leader, Immunology and Plant Molecular Biology at the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR), where he commenced his career in the Public Service in 1985 as a Scientist. Dr Reynolds has a Bachelor of Science (Honours) and a PhD in Plant Biochemistry from the University of Otago. In 1990 he was awarded a Commemoration Medal for his contribution to New Zealand Science and in 1996 he received the Watson Victor Award for Biochemistry. Dr Reynolds takes up his appointment on 21 July 2008.

Winter Energy Issues

The power industry has set up a new website www.powersavers.co.nz to monitor national hydro storage levels and winter power demand. It updates the hydro lake situation daily and has good summary graphs as well as tips on how to save power.