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Introduction from the NZ Chapter President

by Tom Burkitt

Looking back at the year, I am proud to be able to draw out just a few of the many highlights.

Our conference in Wellington was a tremendous success. Feedback has been resoundingly positive and has given us confidence to commit to an annual event that draws our members together in NZ to engage with one another. Watch this space!

We have engaged well with our Government and key Ministries and departments, including the EPA. We have established relationships that will stand us in good stead and have made good progress in elevating the status of the environmental profession in NZ. Of course, there's plenty still to do, but the foundations are laid.

Finally, I wish to congratulate our big winners announced formally at this year's conference gala dinner. Judith Roper-Lindsay won the prestigious Simon Molesworth award for her contribution to the Institute overall; Amy Clore won the Tor Hundloe award for being the outstanding young practitioner that she is; and Professor Ian Spellerberg's contribution to environmental practice was recognised with his successful nomination for an Honorary Fellowship of the Institute. These are well deserved and illustrate the impact that we in New Zealand are having on environmental practice



and on the positive direction that the Institute is taking.

Merry Christmas everyone. It's been an extraordinary year, and a busy one for all of us. I

wish you a fun and safe holiday with friends and family.

My first few months as Chapter Councillor

by Jeska McNicol, NZ Chapter Councillor

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In October I had the pleasure of meeting in person the other EIANZ Councillors from Australia when I attended my first EIANZ Council meeting since I took over the role from Jo Buckner. My impression from the first meeting is that the governance of the Institute is in excellent hands with Councillors covering a wide range of expertise and experience.

There are a number of initiatives being progressed including the appointment of an EIANZ General Manager to drive membership uptake and rolling out the STEP programme to ensure our younger members can be mentored and see a clear pathway

to achieving Certified Environmental Practitioner status. My role on the Council is to ensure the New Zealand view is represented in governance decisions and provide support to the New Zealand Executive.



I look forward to meeting more of our New Zealand members during 2011 and wish you all a safe and relaxing holiday period.

Engaging Communities in Waste Minimisation: Part II

by Sarah Pritchett

In the last New Zealand EIANZ newsletter I outlined my visit to WRAP (Waste & Resources Action Programme) in Banbury, Oxfordshire, UK as part of my Winston Churchill Memorial Trust Fellowship to see how UK organisations successfully engage the community in waste minimisation.

In this article I outline my visits to WasteWatch, ResourceFutures and Eunomia. WasteWatch (east London) and ResourceFutures (Bristol) are not-for-profits, while Eunomia (Bristol, with an Auckland office) is a consultancy. These organisations all identified similar barriers to engaging communities and have come up with their own solutions to removing these.

WasteWatch is based in Hackney, one of London's most economically deprived boroughs, and they work with a lot of council estates. They have found that the popular method of recruiting and training local residents to become recycling "champions" hasn't been very successful on estates as it is difficult to demonstrate tangible benefits and the community is quite transient. Although they still use the champions model, WasteWatch have now also adopted a partnership model where they work with organisations who are already well-established in the community. For example, the Primary Care Trust run healthy eating initiatives throughout east London and WasteWatch now work with them to spread the word about reducing food waste. In addition, WasteWatch works with groups such as

muslim women's groups or SureStart (an early childhood parenting support organisation) and takes their lead on which waste issues they may be interested in discussing or working on. Another innovative way WasteWatch has of getting people to think about avoiding food waste is by holding cooking demos for students. WasteWatch employ an energetic chef who is passionate about avoiding food waste and showing students how they can prepare nutritious delicious food in an economical way.

One of ResourceFutures' ongoing programmes is coordinating Oxfordshire's 29 Community Action Groups (CAGs). On behalf of the Oxfordshire County Council ResourceFutures employs and manages two (1 fulltime and 1 part time) support workers, who facilitate the CAGs. The CAGs were initially established in 2001 through presentations to parish councils asking residents to identify waste minimisation initiatives they were interested in working on. The groups range from a few streets in a neighbourhood, a village to a housing estate and projects include a household battery collection, a bulk detergents etc station, swap days, and the publication of a waste reduction A-Z detailing how and where residents could avoid sending waste to landfill. The rationale behind the CAGs is that the community is more likely to be interested in waste minimisation activities if their friends or neighbours rather than their local authority initiates them.

Eunomia are generally contracted by local authorities to carry out consultations regarding the provision of a new waste service or to assess current services. Recruiting the representative range of community members for such a consultation can be problematic as people who

volunteer tend to be interested in waste minimisation and not representative of the general public. Eunomia initially tried recruiting community members by offering incentives such as the provision of food as part of the consultation meeting. When this failed to attract the community members the local authorities were interested in Eunomia offered vouchers but they found that certain vouchers attracted certain people and they needed such a wide range of vouchers that it was unfeasible. Drawing inspiration from other sectors such as health Eunomia started offering a cash gift to participants and has found this approach to be very successful. Eunomia are viewed as one of the most successful waste consultancies in the UK because they manage to recruit (using a market research company) and retain a representative range of community members for the whole length of the consultation.

UK waste minimisation organisations face the same difficulties as those of us working in waste minimisation in New Zealand, namely how to get people to see they are both part of the waste problem and the solutions. As in New Zealand the onus is on local authorities in the UK to minimise waste going to landfill. And, as in New Zealand, the majority of UK residents seem to think household waste is solely the problem of their local authority. The organisations I visited have successfully removed some of these barriers using innovative methods. A full report on my fellowship visit to the UK will be available soon. Please email me on sk_pritchett@yahoo.com if you are interested in receiving a copy.

Conference 2010: Field Trip – From Water to Wine

by Jo Buckner

The journey started with a coach ride over the Rimutaka Hill through to the historic Anzac Hall in Featherston for a briefing on the Wairarapa Moana Wetlands Park project. The hall is one of those wonderful war memorial buildings that serve to remind us of the dreadful sacrifices of the Anzacs in the First World War. Built of locally milled timber, the dark interior was decorated with photographs of fine men in uniform and the Featherston Military Camp, along with dusty mounted stags' heads and fading photographs of early Melbourne Cup winners. We gathered in the back room off the kitchen for the briefing to find a fantastic spread of sponge cake, fruit cake and scones waiting for us.



Aerial and lakeside views taken on a sunnier day than we had ...

Seen from the air, Wairarapa Moana Wetlands Park is the largest wetland complex in the southern North Island, supporting native plants and animals of national and international importance. The park is made up of the beds of Lake Wairarapa and Lake Onoke and the publicly owned reserves around them. This covers over 9,000 hectares, from Lake Domain in the north to Onoke Spit, 30km away, at Palliser Bay.

We heard from a number of speakers including representatives from local government, local iwi and the Department of Conservation who are all involved in the ownership and management of Wairarapa Moana. Restoration of the lake has necessitated finding ways to accommodate multiple interests including those of local iwi, farmers and recreationalists.

Prior to this field trip I had not appreciated the clash of cultures that played out around the lake. For Maori, the wetlands are traditionally and spiritually important as an area for food gathering, including eel, fish, waterfowl, and plant material, in particular, flax and raupo. However, colonial pastoralists instead favoured gaining access to dry, fertile



Above: Alex, iwi liaison and organic dairy farmer, who is involved in the wetland

grazing for their sheep so set about trying to drain the lake and control its spread after heavy rainfall. The presentations also covered the management of the flood protection system, irrigation and the local ecology.

We then headed off in the coach to see the wetland project for ourselves. The weather was rather cold and very windy and our Australian colleague struggled to hold the map in the wind. Alex assured us that was the first cold, dry southerly wind of the season...brrr ... it could only get warmer!

After that it was on to Martinborough to the Stonecutter Vineyard which is a boutique vineyard established by Roger Pemberton and Lucy Harper in 1995. The cold wind was also blowing here but now it was becoming wet – a further challenge for the vineyard after a long wet winter.

Stonecutter is a tiny estate specialising in Pinot Noir and Pinot Gris but with a few hundred plants of Merlot and Sauvignon Blanc to round out the range. Their philosophy is to lightly crop from well-tended

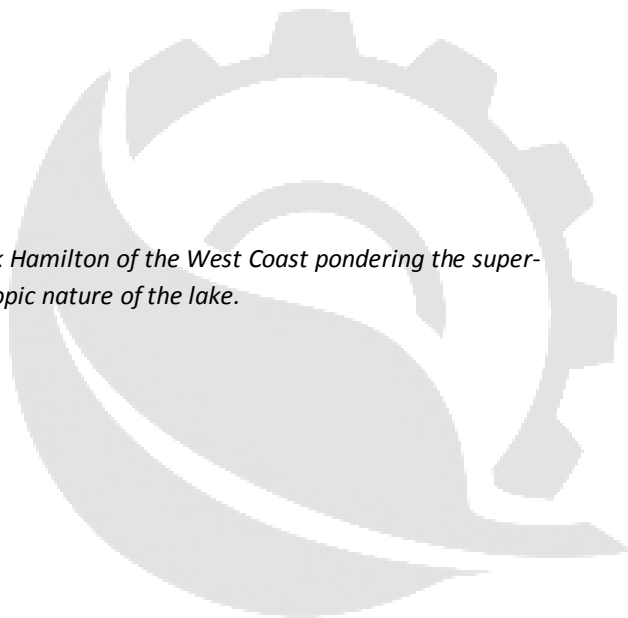
vines, producing fruit and wines with intense flavour. Roger talked us through the environmental impacts of wine growing and making, and how these can be mitigated - and then we checked out their claims with a rather pleasant wine tasting.

Many thanks to those who put in the time and effort to organise this field trip – it was really worthwhile!

An Australian colleague struggling to hold the map in the windy conditions that herald the arrival of summer.



Mark Hamilton of the West Coast pondering the super-entropic nature of the lake.



Roger explaining the organic growing system at Stonecutter Vineyard.



Top UK and North American Students Seeking NZ Work Experience

by Melissa Wilson, Internship Institute of New Zealand



As Northern Hemisphere Universities gear up for their 2011 'work abroad' programmes, we are seeing an emerging trend of students and recent environmental science, planning and management graduates, seeking opportunities to work alongside New Zealand practitioners.

The New Zealand Internship Institute has received enquiries from more than 100 would-be interns who are interested in gaining work experience in environmental roles in New Zealand.

"Our rigorous application and screening process will see that number whittled down significantly, leaving a pool of the highest achieving, most motivated and 'work-ready' interns available for roles in New Zealand" says Emeritus Associate Jan Fitz-Gerald, of the New Zealand Internship Institute.

The Institute puts interns through their paces to ensure they have core skills to build on and a positive approach to tackling a range of tasks – both big and small.

Taking on an intern is an economic way to bolster your project based, administrative or field work teams; learn about current global teaching in top international universities; introduce youthful vigour and enthusiasm into your workplace; and to keep a long-term eye on top graduate employees.

"Interns come here ready to learn. They're prepared to get stuck in and are happy to take on admin and routine jobs as well as ones that get to stretch the technical skills they have been learning about in the classroom" says Ms Fitz-Gerald.

Interns usually take on roles that last for between 6 and 26 weeks and are generally unpaid, although some Companies do choose to make a contribution towards their expenses.

There are no hidden costs involved for host companies - if you work with the New Zealand Internship Institute they will take care of all the screening, paperwork, and validations. All you need to do is provide:

- the opportunity to learn through a genuine role or project;
- the guidance of a supportive mentor/supervisor; and
- a brief written evaluation on completion of the internship.

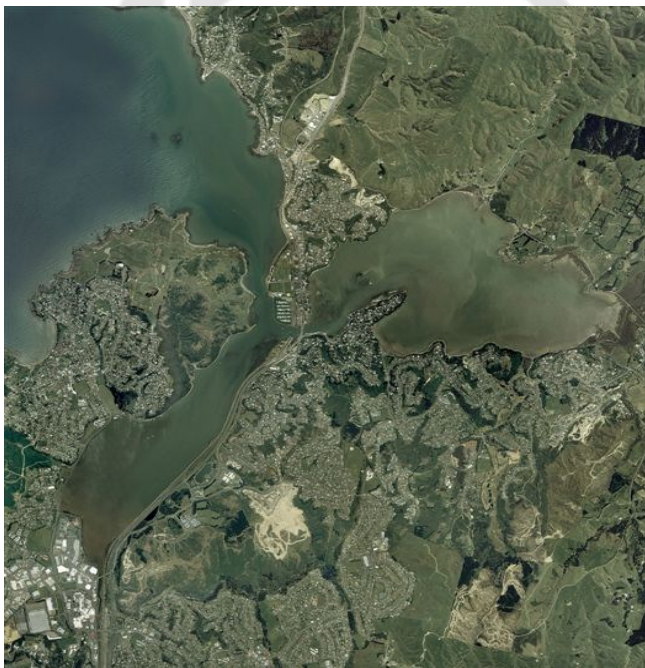
Contact Jan Fitz-Gerald to find out more about taking on an intern now or in the future jan@nzinterns.ac.nz 09 575 9964.



Porirua Harbour Project

by Keith Calder, Porirua Harbour Strategy Coordinator

New EIANZ member Keith Calder is involved in an innovative strategy development programme to protect and enhance the Porirua Harbour, 20km north of Wellington city. The two arms of the 800ha harbour form the largest estuary in the lower North Island. The harbour catchment covers 185km² of mixed rural/urban land and is home to about 80,000 people.

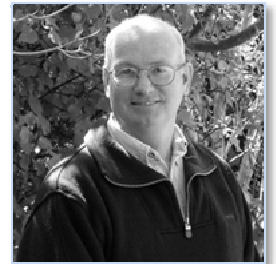


Top: Panoramic view of the harbor

Above: An aerial of the harbour courtesy of Google Earth

One hundred and fifty years of European settlement has resulted in the gradual degradation of the harbour ecology, and cultural and aesthetic values. With 50% of the Wellington region's growth earmarked for the catchment over the next 20 years, adverse impacts are likely to continue without the kind of intervention envisaged by the strategy development.

The harbour is the centrepiece of Porirua City and a gateway to the Wellington region. It is a major local and regional recreational resource, provides outstanding sea- and landscapes, and key traditional resource for local iwi, Ngati Toa.



In response to community requests for the harbour to be "cleaned-up", Porirua City Council established and funds the Porirua Harbour Programme. Keith, as Porirua Harbour Strategy Coordinator, heads the programme to coordinate an integrated approach to developing a strategy and action plan to improve the harbour's general poor health. Three years into the programme, the critical challenges confronting a harbour clean-up are – sedimentation, contamination and loss of habitat – referred to as the 'Big 3'. Sedimentation is a particular problem with sedimentation rates of 9mm and 6mm per year in the two arms of the harbour.

However, Keith says, "It's not all bad. Despite some poor key indicators and the sometimes not so good look of parts of the harbour, the scientists are saying that other indicators and parts of the harbour are in remarkably good condition. The harbour still has the basis of a sound ecology. It's worth saving, and it's realistic to achieve it".

The programme involves four interrelated components:

Component 1: Networking and Partnering

Achieving sustainable, long-term improvement in the harbour will require a multi-agency, cross-boundary and multidisciplinary approach. Porirua City Council, Greater Wellington Regional Council, Wellington City Council and Ngati Toa administrative body, Te Runanga O Toa Rangatira are the key partners to sign a multi-party memorandum of understanding in support of strategy development. Ten other government, non-government and community groups have signed up to the MOU and form an Inter-agency Advisory Group that facilitates coordination and information sharing.



Above: View across the bridge and inlet junction

This part of the programme also involves a lot of community input. Public seminars, workshops and discussion documents keep the community informed and ensures Keith and the strategy development team understand community values, concerns and expectations.

A new harbour and catchment community trust is also being established as a community voice and advocate for the harbour.

"Front-loading the strategy development with significant community liaison is a deliberate tactic. It will help us to build an informed and more robust strategy and the end product attracts greater public support."

Component 2: Research

Targeted research is aided by a multi-agency Harbour Science Group. An extensive programme of research continues to plug gaps in understanding the harbour and catchment, to consider management options and assist strategy development. The single most significant research currently underway is modelling of the harbour and catchment.

Component 3: Strategy Development

Writing the actual strategy and action plan is underway. The three councils and Ngati Toa work with Keith in strategy development. It is hoped to have a draft strategy document for public release by mid-2011.

Component 4: Implementation

Work and activities are already occurring that are of direct and indirect benefit to improving harbour conditions. The strategy will focus, coordinate and prioritise these and new initiatives.

Keith has a degree in geology and masters in resource and environmental planning. His work experiences include river hydrology, and water and soil resource planning, for Ministry of Works and Development and then DOC, and latterly was the Operation Manager at Karori Wildlife Sanctuary (now Zealandia). After more than two years in his strategy coordinator role, he says he's still on a steep learning curve about coastal and estuarine processes.

"This is an exciting project. No two days are the same. Meanwhile the momentum is building for change. I am optimistic about an effective strategy and a number of tangible outcomes... mostly that we'll achieve a much healthier harbour."



Click [here](#) to view "A day in the life of Porirua Harbour" or visit www.pcc.govt.nz - Harbour Catchment and Management

Grant Redvers at our Conference Dinner, October 2010

We were treated to an amazing presentation by inspirational young New Zealander, Grant Redvers, at our conference dinner in Wellington.

The subject of his talk was his epic adventure to the Arctic and a two year ice-locked polar drift in the schooner TARA. This schooner, rigged for ice and polar conditions, has a strong New Zealand connection as it is the same vessel as the late Sir Peter Blake's environmental exploration schooner formerly known as SeaMaster.

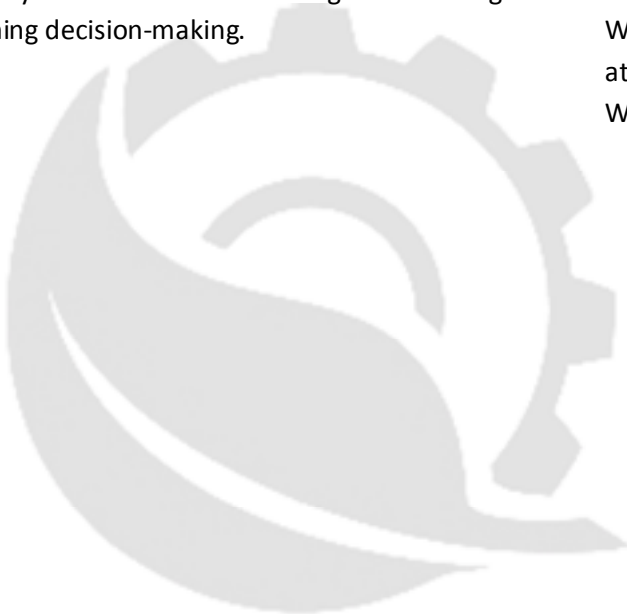
The expedition aimed to observe, understand, and quantify the Arctic climate changes to assist global warming decision-making.

Grant joined TARA in 2004, and has undertaken a number of expeditions to Antarctica and South Georgia on her, supporting diverse research, natural history and adventure projects. This culminated in the TARA Arctic expedition from 2006 -2008.



Grant's background is in environmental science and sailing, having earned degrees in Geography at Massey University, and Environmental and Marine Science at Auckland University.

We encourage you to order his book using the attached order form or click [here](#) to visit the Weevers online bookstore.



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Tara Arctic: A New Zealander's Epic Voyage

On 3 September 2006, the French schooner *Tara*, previously Sir Peter Blake's *Saramoa*, was deliberately trapped in the Arctic sea ice, as the famous Norwegian explorer Nansen had been over a century before. *Tara Arctic* describes the extraordinary 506-day frozen voyage that followed. It is the classic modern adventure story – working at -40°C; the immense pressure of ice on *Tara's* hull; the tensions among crew members in their tiny, enclosed world; encounters with polar bears; and month after month away from family and friends. As prestigious *Nature* magazine put it: "... on 28 May 2007, the ship came closer to the geographic North Pole than any ship before ... That was not the only remarkable aspect about this expedition ...". On the scientific front, the data collected about the state of the ice, atmosphere and Arctic Ocean has made an important contribution to the study of global climate change.

New Zealander Grant Redvers, the expedition leader, has a master's degree in environmental science. He has spent three summers at Scott Base in Antarctic and sailed on voyages in the Southern Ocean, to the Antarctic Peninsula and to sub-Antarctic islands. He was the only expedition member to remain on board *Tara* the entire time.

YES, I want signed copy (ies) of

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