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NZ Chapter Newsletter

EIANZ

March 2010

FROM THE EDITOR

Erik van Eyndhoven

You might have noticed some changes to the Institute's primary newsletter, The Environmental Practitioner. It has a new look and should better represent the trans-Tasman interests of its membership. We'll seek to align our newsletter by covering more branch specific material and events. I encourage people who are keen to write general-

interest pieces to consider also submitting them to the Environmental Practitioner team.

The deadline for contributions to the next NZ Chapter newsletter will be Friday the 7th of May 2010 – send your articles, news items, events or ideas to me at erik.vaneyndhoven@maf.govt.nz.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Tom Burkitt (nzpresident@eianz.org.nz)

Already the summer holidays feel rather distant and the year is off to a flying start for us all and certainly for the Institute.

The next 12 months are very significant for our Chapter with, among other things, the return of the annual conference to our country later in the year. Invitations for papers are to be announced shortly and I encourage you to distribute the notice amongst your colleagues, and do take advantage of the early bird discount registration fee if you can!

We have also finished drafting the business plan for the Chapter; an important guiding document that spells out our key objectives and priorities for this and the coming years. Jo Buckner has compiled the definitive operational document and it will evolve over time. The business plan will be circulated to NZ members shortly, and it is also a useful document to share with people you may know who

are not yet members, but are interested in what we do and how we do it.

Since Christmas we have also made an important change to the NZ Executive team in response to an Institute wide commitment to establish an active Student and Young Professionals programme. I'd like to welcome Craig Redmond on to our NZ Executive. Craig is a young environmental practitioner working at the NZ Transport Agency (NZTA) and will work with our team to establish a game-plan and develop membership services for students and young professionals.

It's also been a busy time for some of the working groups. I'm sure you will be interested to know that the revised code of ethics and good practice is well underway. The original code has served us very well since it was first published over 20 years ago. Last year the EIANZ Council voted to review the code, and a working group lead by Tiffany



Thomson (VP Australia) has made excellent progress. The revised code is to be presented to Council at the next meeting, signed off, and then distributed to members shortly thereafter. For more information in the meantime, please contact me on 027 4774914 or tomburkitt@lineone.net

And finally, a challenge for us all: We have approximately 150 members in New Zealand. This is small, but we do occupy an important niche and we are moving forward.

This is now a good time to come on board and make the Institute stronger. With more members we

will be in an even better position to represent practitioners and offer professional development opportunities.

Size does matter (!) and it's important for us to grow. Therefore, I'd like to challenge each of us to bring in at least one new member this year. Go on - give it a go.

Tom

2010 INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF BIODIVERSITY

You are biodiversity. Most of the oxygen you breathe comes from plankton in the oceans of the world and lush forests around the globe. The fruit and vegetables you eat were likely pollinated by bees, and the water you drink is part of a huge global cycle involving you, clouds, rainfall, glaciers, rivers and oceans.

Your diet depends almost entirely on the plants and animals around us, from the grasses that give us rice and wheat, to the fish and meat from both wild and farmed landscapes. Your body contains up to 100 trillion cells and is connected with everything around you and the wider world in a wonderfully complex and timeless system. You share your atoms with every being and object in the natural world, you are both ancient and inconceivably young. Biodiversity is life, your life is biodiversity and biodiversity is you.

You share the planet with as many as 13 million different living species including plants, animals and bacteria, only 1.75 million of which have been named and recorded. This incredible natural wealth is a priceless treasure that forms the ultimate foundation of your human wellbeing. The systems and processes these millions of neighbours collectively provide produce your food, water and the air you breathe – the basic fundamentals of life.

As if that was not enough they also supply you with timber and plant materials for furniture, building and fuel, the mechanisms that regulate your climate, control floods and recycle your waste and the novel compounds and chemicals from which medicines are made. You may take biodiversity so much for granted, and it is so obviously all around you, that it

is sometimes easy to forget it's there - that you are a part of it and can't live apart from it.

Biodiversity's contribution to your life is not just practical, physical and utilitarian, it is also cultural.

The diversity of the natural world has been a constant source of inspiration throughout human history, influencing traditions, the way our society has evolved and supplying the basic goods and services upon which trade and the economy is built. The disappearance of unique species is a loss that cannot be calculated and leaves us all much poorer.

The loss of iconic and symbolic species is not only a cultural tragedy; it also undermines our own survival. The beautiful, bountiful diversity of the natural world is being damaged as a result of human activities. Felling or burning of forests, removal of mangroves, intensive farming, pollution stress, overfishing and the impacts of climate change are all destroying biodiversity.

We can stop this loss, the question is will we? The International Year of Biodiversity is our chance to prove we will.

Events will be happening around the country to celebrate biodiversity and to bring about change. Get out and support them, or better yet, organise one yourself!

The Department of Conservation will be leading this initiative in NZ – see <http://www.doc.govt.nz/features-archive/international-year-of-biodiversity/>. For more information and resources go to: <http://www.cbd.int/2010/welcome/>



BRANCH ITEMS

Wellington Branch

The Wellington Branch ran a varied series of events in 2009 covering off ethics, climate change and the global financial crisis, ending the year with a relaxed Christmas social. We have some fantastic events lined up for 2010 including fresh water management, mining in national parks and of course helping out and attending the Conference in Wellington in October.

We were pleased to see membership in Wellington continue to increase in 2009 and hope to continue the trend this year. The Wellington Branch Committee meets the second Tuesday of every month at 5.30pm. We love to see new faces and would welcome any members or prospective members to come along, get to know us and share ideas for the coming year.

Personally I am continually amazed at the variety, knowledge and depth of experience we have amongst our members. I look forward to meeting more of you in 2010.

Vanessa Browne: On behalf of the WLG Branch Committee

Christchurch Branch

Visit to Hinewai Native Forest Reserve



Hinewai is a 1250 hectare reserve in the southwest corner of the Banks Peninsula, Canterbury. In 1987, 109 hectares of gorse covered pasture with some remnant bush were purchased by the Maurice White Native Forest Trust, and Hugh Wilson started to manage the land for "Protection and restoration of native vegetation and wildlife."

Since 2010 is the International Year for Biodiversity, 40 Institute members, family and friends visited Hinewai on 14 February. We were welcomed by Hugh, with an introduction to the Reserve's history, development, problems and success stories. After lunch we then explored the 15 kilometres of tracks. Hugh's passion for conservation and for Hinewai in particular, is evident in his words and his actions!

The restoration story is stunning. Dense kanuka shrubland has replaced much of the gorse, and beneath it a wide array of native forest plants (including rare species) are returning. The older parts of the forest contain some local giants – a 1.7 m diameter totara and a 400 year old red beech

tree! Tui have recently been released in the Reserve and could be heard in the high canopy. Tomtits, bellbirds and fantails are common and we watched kereru feed on the fuchsia fruits.

Although the Reserve doesn't extend to the coast, neighbouring landowners are following the Hinewai lead and protecting bush while allowing visitors to reach the beach where penguins can be seen.

The visit was a good start to our IYB events, and we hope it gave an insight into the indigenous biodiversity that can return in just over 20 years with sympathetic land management.

The EIANZ visitors made a donation of \$144 to the Maurice White Native Forest Trust

The next scheduled Christchurch event is the seminar on Integrated Catchment Management on Thurs 27 March.



CONFERENCES AND TRAINING

EIANZ Annual Conference – From Discovery to Delivery

26-29 October 2010

Te Papa

Wellington

<http://www.confer.co.nz/eianz2010/>

Innovative Freshwater Management

23 March 2010

5.15pm

Department of Conservation, Manners Street, Wellington.

For more information or to RSVP contact Vanessa Browne (vanessa_browne@urscorp.com)

Social Assessment Training Workshop

Presenters: Nick Taylor and James Baines, Taylor Baines & Associates

Dates: 17-18 May 2010

Venue: The Tauranga on the Waterfront, Tauranga

Earlybird concession if registration is paid for by 31 March 2010

For further information and registration, go to www.tba.co.nz

or email j.baines@tba.co.nz

Water New Zealand Stormwater Conference

14-15th May 2010

Rotorua

<http://www.waternz.org.nz/stormwaterconference.html>

EDS National Conference

Reform in Paradise II:

Environmental Reform and the Green Economy

2-3 June 2010

Aotea Centre,

Auckland.

<http://www.edskonference.com/>



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