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Introduction from the NZ Chapter President

by Jeska McNicol

It is hard to believe this is our last newsletter for 2011 as it seems like only yesterday I took on the role as the New Zealand Chapter President. This year has been a whirlwind and like many of our Christchurch based members I am looking forward to a more stable 2012. I have thoroughly enjoyed my first six months as President - in particular being able to meet so many of our members and have more involvement in governance of the institute with my Australian colleagues.

In this newsletter we welcome our new members and give you a chance to read about some of the interesting projects and conferences our members have been involved in.



A big thanks to Justine Coup ([Morphum Environmental](#)) who has taken on the role as newsletter editor. We have a vacancy in our

executive team of Treasurer and we are keen to hear from any of you who feel this role may interest you.

I wish you all a safe and happy festive season and look forward to meeting more of you in the New Year.

Jeska McNicol
President (New Zealand Chapter, EIANZ)
Vice-President (EIANZ)

Report from the New Zealand Representative on the Council

by Dianne Buchan

The EIANZ Council, together with invited Divisional Presidents, Special Interest Section and Standing Committee Chairs, participated in a Planning Day workshop the day before the start of the 2011 conference. The Workshop was convened to provide input on the future directions of the Institute for the period 2012-2015 and beyond. Approximately 30 people participated.

The Planning Day identified, analysed and developed specific solutions to a range of issues facing the Institute. An agreed way forward was outlined for most of these issues and responsibilities for the follow-up work were assigned.



Objectives

Key objectives of the workshop agreed by participants were:

1. reflect upon achievements to date and be inspired by the opportunities ahead for EIANZ;
2. define the future directions for EIANZ, its priority areas and the key outcomes and actions needed to achieve these;
3. design ways to continuously improve EIANZ's performance; and,
4. network amongst the Chapters and Divisions and get to know the contributors to EIANZ's current initiatives and operations.

The focus question agreed for the workshop was *"as a trans-Tasman organisation for environmental practitioners, what are our priority areas and key actions for the next five years?"*

EIANZ vision and mission

EIANZ's Vision (*or aspiration*) was confirmed as **'Excellence in Environmental Practice'**. This was the vision put forward by the New Zealand Chapter as being clear, encompassing of all environmental disciplines and focused on the organisations primary mission to foster best practice.

The meeting agreed that delivery of the EIANZ Mission statement would be built on five pillars (or primary purposes):

1. **Representing** / gaining recognition, providing standing, advocating
2. **Supporting** / demonstrating benefit, up-skilling, mentoring
3. **Advancing** / building, innovating, improving, raising standards, leading

4. **Connecting** / engaging, broad church / diversity of members, networking, not just existing members but to new markets or sector/ using new media/ creating a space for people who work across disciplines/ work holistically
5. **Leading** / providing leadership to practitioners in the development of the profession.

Priority Issues for Institute

Individual responses, and whole group ranking of issues, produced a list of priority issues which were critical for the Institute to move forward. These issues were (in order or ranking)

1. Central Office Operations
2. Membership Value and Benefits
3. Governance and Structure
4. Professional Development
5. Identity and Branding
6. Finances and Financial Allocations

Actions required to address each of these issues were identified and small task groups established to work on these. I have joined the Governance and Structure review group which will be chaired by the EIANZ President, Michael Chilcott. This group will be focusing on clarifying the roles of each level in the organisation, the relationship between the Council and the executive, and the skills and structure at management level.

Leo Feitje from our Christchurch branch has joined the working group charged with developing a Corporate Plan for the period to 2015 which will also be chaired by Michael Chilcott. (Incidentally, at the AGM, Leo also agreed to take over the role of Treasurer of EIANZ replacing Michael Chilcott so he is in for a very busy year).

The response to the workshop was very positive with participants feeling that a frank and honest discussion had resulted in a good understanding of the way forward and confidence that the outcomes from the working groups will strengthen the organisation and make EIANZ more efficient and effective in achieving its objectives, vision and mission.

I wish you all a restful summer break and look forward to meeting lots of you in 2012.

Report on the 2011 NZAIA Conference 24th & 25th November

Natural Disasters: Impact assessment for sustainable recovery

The New Zealand Association of Impact Assessment (NZAIA) held its annual conference at Lincoln University in Christchurch in November this year. A highly appropriate location for the topic *Natural Disasters: Impact Assessment for Sustainability*. EIANZ recently signed an MOU with NZAIA to foster collaboration and event coordination so it was good to see several members of the NZ Chapter of EIANZ at the conference.

Participants heard from a wide range of speakers about the impacts of, responses to, and lessons learned from the Christchurch earthquake and other disasters both domestic and overseas. There were speakers from the Christchurch City Council and Waimakariri District Council, the Joint Centre for Disaster Research at the Institute for Geological and Nuclear Sciences, the Christchurch Earthquake Response Authority (CERA), the Ministry for Civil Defence and Emergency Management, the University of Canterbury, several social research consultancies as well as two residents groups that have formed since the earthquake to coordinate support, lobby for assistance and influence the planning and rebuilding processes.

There were two international speakers – Charles Kelly from the Benfield Hazard Research Centre in the UK and Bob Bach from the Centre for Homeland Defense and Security in the USA both of whom had extensive experience in application of impact assessment tools as part of disaster management.

As a social impact practitioner I found all the speakers very interesting and learned a great deal about the huge range of issues that need to be dealt with in a disaster, the difficulties of responding in any sort of methodological way, and the value that impact assessment

methodologies, adapted to suit the situation, could add to the effectiveness of the response.

There were a few points that have stayed in my mind which I think are particularly relevant to EIANZ members practicing in the field of impact assessment. In no particular order they are:

1. Impact assessment clarifies the complexity of communities and the issues that need to be dealt with in a disaster scenario.
2. The Christchurch earthquake emergency response and recovery has provided clear examples of where impact assessment could be used in similar situations to improve outcomes:
 - Forced resettlement processes
 - Business access and recovery
 - Waste management
 - Heritage management
 - Workforce planning
 - Traffic management
 - Psychological recovery
3. In a disaster management situation we can't aim for the best, we need to aim for something that is good enough for the circumstances – focus on what you need, not what is possible. In deciding what is good enough you need to trade off speed, accuracy and utility.
4. The overall aim of the Integrated Recovery Planning Guide being drafted by CERA is to build stronger, healthier and more resilient communities. Yet it has recently been decided that houses that need rebuilding will not be insulated if they were not insulated before. Also, there is a need to consider the impact of recovery efforts on our aspirations for a sustainable future. Rebuilding should not for example, be allowed to over-ride the principles of good urban design. There has been criticism of the lack of emphasis on the natural environment. CERA is looking at whether it needs its own recovery plan.

5. No matter how good your impact assessment is, if those responsible for disaster management don't recognise its worth and don't use it, it is worthless. It is therefore imperative that organisations responsible for disaster management have staff trained in impact assessment methodology.
6. Impact assessment practitioners need to rise to the challenge of improving their engagement in disaster management.
7. In normal situations it is very difficult to get Councils to shift from a top-down to a bottom up approach to community engagement, in a crisis situation it is difficult to shift from a militaristic approach to one that is more collaborative.
8. We have had significant disaster experience in NZ. This means significant opportunity to learn lessons and develop predictive mechanisms for the future. We should be evaluating the effectiveness of our responses as we go to improve future disaster responses.
9. The post disaster context is not a scaled up version of Business as Usual. Agencies failure to recognise and adjust to this has been the basis for many of the current problems facing Christchurch. Parochialism, bureaucracy and lack of coordination and collaboration between agencies and councils impede recovery wasting time and energy. Community members felt that some systems were organised around the needs of Wellington and the media rather than

the people affected and that should be challenged.

10. A number of core characteristics of the challenges faced by anyone responding to a disaster situation are:
 - urgency – the need for decisions to give some certainty and meet people's basic needs before there is time to think about the brave new future
 - lack of information – people are often forced to make recommendations when they don't have all the information needed
 - a new agency to manage the crisis means the organisation is trying to get a structure and equipment and staff in place while being required to make decisions
 - The need to work across multiple agencies each with their own ways of working, priorities.
11. The core principles of an effective recovery process are:
 - community-based and community involvement decision-making
 - coordination and integration of information and action
 - flexibility
 - training and professional development and support.

Much to think about, thank you to NZAIA for a very worthwhile conference.

'Innovation Through Science' – December 5th 2011

by Justine Coup

Auckland Conversations, with support from EIANZ, CPG Consultants and the Ministry of Science and Innovation presented the latest 'Auckland Conversations' on December 5th, 2011.

Professor Sir Peter Gluckman was invited to speak to the topic '*Innovation through science: the pathway to economic prosperity*'. Professor Sir Gluckman holds many accolades, including that he is the founding Director of the Liggins Institute, is a Knight of the NZ Merit of Order and in 2001 received New Zealand's top science award, the Rutherford Medal. In 2009, Sir Peter Gluckman was made New Zealand's first Chief Science Advisor to the Prime Minister, John Key.



Auckland Council Mayor, Len Brown, spoke initially about Auckland, to encourage innovation within NZ's biggest city. Within Auckland, leading the way



is the development of the recent Food Science Innovation Hub at the Airport precinct in Manukau and the Hi-Tech Innovation Hub at Wynyard Quarter. In addition, the presence of a landing pad in San Francisco has been made available for Kiwis to work closely with international technologies and marketing opportunities.

Professor Sir Gluckman reiterated that innovation in science is essential to improve prosperity in New Zealand. Science investment in research and development in New Zealand has historically been poor, particularly from the private sector and when compared to other small countries, such as Denmark.

Sir Peter identified two myths which must be dealt with to enable better innovation:

- Innovation in NZ needs to be more than just the No. 8 wire concept – it is innovation from multi-disciplinary interactions that is more beneficial.
- Taking basic research through to a product that can be sold is not carried out in a simple linear process. Ideas bubble up from interactions between individuals and may result in a different outcome than what the project was set out to achieve.

Two components are highlighted as being key to science based innovation – the flow of enough ideas and an ecosystem that allows the market and scientist to communicate. To be successful that ecosystem must have access to capital (from private and public investment), professional expertise in capital raising, IP management and regulatory affairs.

As NZ has such success from tourism and agriculture, it has been considered that there is little need for science and innovation to improve our economy. This is quite different than other countries which are lacking the same productive natural resources, and so they have had to rely on the brainpower of their population to enable economic growth.

New Zealand needs to move forward by improving investment in innovation, science, research and development. Auckland need to take the lead on promoting regional economies, as Christchurch and Wellington are already on their way. Technology parks, such as those mentioned by Len Brown, are essential to bringing innovation to the fore and to encourage involvement in technology.

I recommend that you take some time to either read the full copy of Sir Peter's speech [here](#) or watch the video recording of the entire event [here](#).

Many thanks to those involved in the organisation of the event. Thanks also to Michael Chilcott (President EIANZ, MEIANZ CEnvP) for heading across the Tasman to attend this event.

For those of you based in Auckland, keep an eye out for more of the Auckland Conversations talks.



EIANZ Annual Conference 2012: Stronger, Wiser, Bolder

The EIANZ Facing the Future – Actions for the Environment Profession Conference 2011 was a great success and a full rundown is available in Issue 23 of The Environmental Practitioner available online [here](#). We have had increasing interest from our members to have an annual New Zealand event in addition to the annual conference shared with Australia. The NZ Executive are currently looking into options for this.

EIANZ Annual Conference 2012 - 24 Oct 2012

Save the Dates!!

The EIANZ Annual Conference is coming to Sydney!

Wednesday 24 - Friday 26 October 2011

Sebel Pier One - Hickson Road, Dawes Point – Sydney

Watch the promotional video [here](#)



Porirua Harbour and Catchment Strategy

Last December we reported on the innovative strategy development programme to protect and enhance the Porirua Harbour, 20km north of Wellington city.

Public submissions on the draft Porirua Harbour and Catchment Strategy and Action Plan have recently closed and the final strategy is expected in early 2012.



To download these documents click [here](#).

More details and research reports on the harbour webpage: www.pcc.govt.nz - Harbour Catchment and Management



Environmental Managers' Forum, February 2012

28th February 2012, Crowne Plaza, Auckland

As environmental managers you are responsible for overseeing the environment performance of your organisation by examining its activities to establish where improvements can be made. This is no easy task.

The [Environmental Managers' Forum](#) is an opportunity for you to not only get a latest update on legal matters, it also gives you the chance to see what others are doing to ensure the organisations they work for are environmentally friendly and sustainable.

The conference highlights are:

- Environmental regulation update
- Environment Management Systems
- ISO 14000 family of environmental management standards
- Case Studies

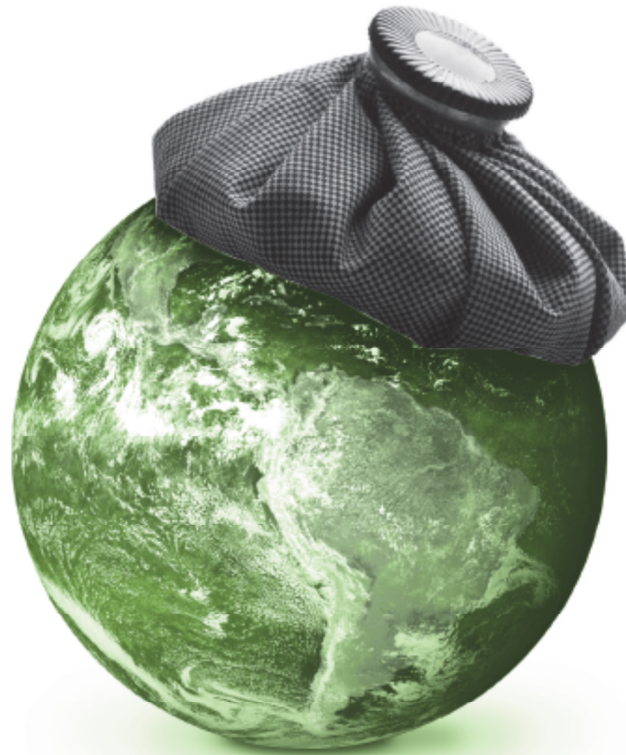
For those that would like to take an in-depth look into Environmental Impact Assessment, register early for the workshop as spaces are strictly limited.

EIANZ Members are entitled to a **10% discount**. To qualify, enter the **promotional code ENVANZ** while booking online at <http://www.conferenz.co.nz> or call us on (09) 912 3616.

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGERS' FORUM

28 February 2012 | Crowne Plaza | Auckland

Developing a holistic environmental management framework for your organisation



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Conference Highlights

- Environmental regulation update
- Environmental Management Systems
- ISO 14000 family of environmental management Standards
- Case studies

Featuring case studies dealing with:

- EMS development and implementation
- Getting buy in on environmental initiatives
- Sustainable procurement
- Emissions and energy reduction
- Waste recycling and minimisation

FULL DAY WORKSHOP

27 February 2012

Examining potential environmental effects through EIA

Supporting Organisations



New Zealand Business Council
for Sustainable Development



NEW ZEALAND
ASSOCIATION OF
RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT



New Appointments to the Institute Executive

The new Executive Committee of the Institute was elected at the EIANZ AGM which was held on Thursday 27th October 2011 at URS Corp, Southbank, Melbourne.

For the next two years the Institute Executive will comprise:

President [Michael Chilcott](#) MEIANZ
CEnvP

Vice President (Aust) [Tiffany Thomson](#) MEIANZ

Vice President (NZ) [Jeska McNicol](#) MEIANZ

Treasurer [Leo Fietje](#) MEIANZ

Secretary [John Braid](#) MEIANZ

Communications Editor [Rebecca McIntyre](#) MEIANZ

Immediate Past President - [Bill Haylock](#) FEIANZ CEnvP

New Members This Quarter

Welcome to the new members of the NZ EIANZ Chapter who have joined since September 1st.

Liz Coombes
Archana Singh
Carla Reardon
Dr Susan Tulloch
Joanna McConway

Marta Karlik-Neale
Shelley McMurtrie
Alex James
Geoff Meadows
Chris Livesey

Situation Vacant: EIANZ NZ Treasurer Role

We are looking for someone to join our New Zealand Executive in the role of Treasurer from early in 2012. This role entails attending our monthly teleconferences, paying our bills, managing our cash-flow, maintaining financial records and paying royalties owing to Central Office. This role will require around 4 hours of time per month and will commence in February 2012. If you are good with numbers, have an eye for detail and trustworthy then this could be your chance to give something back to our profession and support our team by continuing the great work of our current Treasurer Ced Croft.

For more details please contact newzealand@eianz.org.nz.

Key Institute and Chapter Information

NZ Chapter Executive Committee

President: [Jeska McNicol](#)

Vice President: [Sam Bridgman](#)

Councillor: [Dianne Buchan](#)

Secretary: [Heike Schiele](#)

Treasurer: [Ced Croft](#)

Committee Members:

Susan Harris

Tom Burkitt

Leo Feitje

Craig Redmond

Regional Branch Coordinators

Auckland / Northern: [Karen O'Donohue](#)

Waikato: *vacant*

Bay of Plenty: [Kevin Wood](#)

Wellington / Central: [Susan Harris](#)

Canterbury: [Stephanie Brown](#)

Otago: *vacant*

Other Key Roles

Membership Secretary: [Eric Scott](#)

Newsletter Editors: [Justine Coup](#)

Contact for general enquiries: info@eianz.org

EIANZ Website: www.eianz.org and www.eianz.org.nz

Find out about events at: www.eianz.org/eventsplus/category/new-zealand

Join us at: www.eianz.org/membership/category/new-zealand

Watch us at: www.youtube.com/nzeianz

Follow us at: www.twitter.com/nzeianz

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