



Photo by Jen Ritson

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In this issue of TEP, the last for 2012, we have a bumper crop of articles, reports and news from our members and supporters. We also reflect upon the EIANZ 2012 Conference just past and the success of the inaugural Students and Early Careers 2012 Congress.



EIANZ wishes you and your family a safe and relaxing holiday season and new year!

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Opinions expressed in this newsletter reflect the views of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand Inc. unless specifically stated.



Photo by Kathy Burton

Editorial

Dear all,
Welcome to the last edition of The Environmental Practitioner for 2012. I hope that this edition finds you well, though no doubt hurriedly tying up loose ends before the close of business for the year.

Email News Digest

EIANZ is seeking proposals from information service providers to prepare a weekly email news digest to add to our swag of member offerings. The digest would be tailored to deliver timely, relevant and significant updates in the arenas of environmental practice, policy, legislation and management for the benefit of members. It is intended that this new service be available from the second quarter of 2013. Watch this space!

Taylor and Francis Roundtable

EIANZ and the editors of AJEM have been invited to attend the 2013 Editorial Round Table of our publisher Taylor and Francis held in Sydney and Melbourne early in the new year. The events are designed to explore developments in the journals publishing landscape, with an overview of Taylor & Francis activities and strategies in this context. I will be attending the Sydney roundtable on behalf of EIANZ and look forward to identifying new opportunities to grow AJEM under this publishing partnership.

Season's Greetings

With the festive season upon us, I was pleased to take the opportunity to drive down from Cairns and catch up with members of the FNQ division in Townsville last week for Xmas drinks. It was a great venue on the Strand and a well-organised event - many thanks to the Townsville contingent!



Living in regional Australia, it is always a challenge to patronise professional development and social events, but it is so rewarding that I encourage others to make that special effort to connect with EIANZ regional events in 2013.

The next issue of TEP will be in March 2013, so the deadline for submissions will be 22 February 2013 (email to communications-editor@eianz.org). But that seems a long time ahead!

Wishing all of you a wonderful Christmas break and a safe and happy new year!

Bec McIntyre MEIANZ
EIANZ Communications Editor

From the President's Desk

It's been a busy few months for the Institute and more broadly within the environment sector. In this report I'll touch on one important aspect of EIANZ activity in this period (the 2012 Conference) as well as some broader external issues that are being debated and in which the Institute and its members have interest.

Conference Report

October 24-25 saw the EIANZ host its Annual Conference in Sydney. The event was an outstanding success at all levels. We had an exceptional level of participation with around 230 delegates joining us from around Australia, NZ, as well as from Africa and Asia, during those two days. Our Gala Dinner and Awards Evening was full at 155 attendees, and the quality of the presentations and boardroom breakfasts was high.

Award winners at this year's Gala Dinner were:

- *Simon Molesworth Award (for contribution by a member to the EIANZ at a whole of Institute level)* – Immediate Past President Bill Haylock (SEQ)
- *Mary Lou Morris Award (for contribution by a member to the EIANZ at Division or Chapter level)* – NSW Councillor and Conference Organising Committee Chair Faye Woodward (NSW)
- *Tor Hundloe Award (Young Environmental Practitioner of the Year)* – Vicki Low (SEQ)
- *Certified Environmental Practitioner of the Year* - Alexandra Blood

- *Australasian Journal of Environmental Management Paper of the Year* – Liam Phelan
- *Corporate Award for a project demonstrating Innovation and Leadership* - BMTWBM (accepted by Director Dr Philip Haines)

Our congratulations go to all the 2012 award recipients!



EIANZ 2012 Award Winners left to right:
Dr Phil Haines, Liam Phelan, Faye Woodward, Vicki Low,
Alexandra Blood and Bill Haylock



Photo by Jen Ritson

From the President's Desk *ctd...*

Feedback received has both confirmed the success of the 2012 Annual Conference, as well as given us areas on which we can continue to refine the event when it goes to Melbourne in October 2013. Highlights of the Conference included the keynote address by Professor Ross Garnaut on the future of carbon pricing in Australia and globally; the presentation by the Deputy Mayor of Auckland, Penny Hulse; and the insightful presentations of Prof. Peter Skelton, on how we can learn from, and plan to address, the impacts of major natural disasters. In wrapping up the Conference, I noted some of my 'take-homes' from the two days, which included:

Meeting the Challenges of the 21st Century – there was a broad discussion that there was a need for us as a profession to look at new approaches and methodologies address the needs of environmental management in the 21st century. Reflecting on the state environmental practice at this time, there was a recognition that much of how we do our work has evolved from techniques and approaches developed in the 70, 80s and 90s.

The challenge for the profession now is to imagine new approaches to environmental assessment and management, that bring both greater efficiency and effectiveness.

Some thoughts on how to do this also emerged, with suggestions for cleverer use of risk-based approaches to environmental assessment and management, and greater use of integrative, deliberative techniques in community consultation. Both can take advantage of 21st century technology in the use of computers. We may also need to think about how we bring science and academia more firmly back into the mix to strengthen the work we do.

The Struggle of Sustainable Development – there was debate around our continuing journey to crack sustainable development and sustainability, and what these should mean for us. Intuitively, we often feel we understand these concepts. However, after 25 years of work by the EIANZ, and after the same amount of time grappling with how best to integrate these concepts into delivering excellence in environmental management, there is a sense that we have yet to complete that journey. The EIANZ has established a Special Interest Section (SIS) for Sustainability, and this will assist the Institute to develop its thinking on this subject. Interestingly, at an event only two weeks after the Conference, I listened to one of the authors of the Club of Rome Report from the early 70s and a key player in the development of the term Sustainable Development.

From the President's Desk *ctd...*

The Norwegian Professor Jorgen Randers, noted that perhaps we needed to reframe the terms of 'Sustainability' to one of 'Sustainable Prosperity', with the aim being to examine how well we manage our capacity to endure, not simply our capacity to grow.

Speaking out: the EIANZ Developing a Bolder Voice – there was strong encouragement for the EIANZ to engage more fully in the political processes in relation to environmental planning, assessment and management. We have begun to do this, with increased representational activity to government, and the forging of relationships to strengthen the links between our members and the work of government. I took the opportunity of the presence of senior government representatives from the largest cities on both sides of the Tasman to confirm our desire to develop with the Councils of Auckland City, and the City of Sydney, strong partnerships with EIANZ, particularly through the work of our members working with those Councils. We are also pursuing the further development of our links to National Governments in Australia and New Zealand, complementing strong links that exist at the State and local levels across both countries.

A conference such as we had in Sydney requires many contributors to make it a reality. Our thanks go to the organisers of the Sydney 2012 Conference and to the sponsors who supported its delivery.

2012 Annual General Meeting

We had a strongly attended AGM in Sydney during the Conference in late October. This was not an election year, and so the Institute's leadership remains as it was for the past year as we head into 2013. The AGM received and accepted the audited accounts for the financial year 2011/12. I'm pleased to note that the Institute's financial position both centrally and in its various State and NZ entities remains strong. This confirms our intent in this year's budget to invest in both member services and in strengthening of the core operations of the Institute.

The major focus of the meeting was the proposed adoption of a revised code of ethics. This had been circulated to the membership for review and consultation prior to the AGM. The item was subject to vigorous debate, as you would expect for such a central issue to a professional institute. After that debate, the proposed revision to the Code of Ethics and Professional Practice was adopted. This document is now being prepared in a format for wider distribution and availability on the Institute's website.

My thanks go to all those members of the working group who contributed many hours across several years, to complete the review process and bring forward to the membership the revised code of ethics.

Wishing you all a wonderful holiday season,

Michael Chilcott
EIANZ President



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There are currently over 430 CEnvPs across Australia and New Zealand (as at Nov 2012).

We encourage suitably qualified practitioners to participate in this important initiative for the environment profession.

For more information about certification criteria and the application process, please visit www.CEnvP.org/apply.

Please do not hesitate to contact the CEnvP Program Manager, Peta Haasbroek, with any questions.

Australia: 03 9001 6948

New Zealand: 03 741 3102

info@cenvp.org

Photo by Ian Wiseman, CEnvP. Mt Hutt, NZ



Photo by Bruce Hodgkinson

Opinion Piece - Regulatory change and review

We are in a period of significant regulatory review and, potentially, reform in relation to environmental management across Australia and New Zealand. These reviews are happening in multiple jurisdictions, and to seek to address all of them in this newsletter is almost impossible. However, I would seek to make a few observations in relation to some of these. At our 2012 Annual Conference, there was a sense that collectively we can and should be improving our work on the management of the environment, both in terms of delivering improved environmental outcomes, and enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of the systems that deliver those outcomes.

There has been much debate and robust discussions in recent months concerning reducing current complications that exist between Commonwealth and State responsibilities for environmental performance and management. In proposals to make these arrangements more effective and efficient, the Commonwealth released proposals for the accreditation of State-based approvals systems for the purposes of assessing matters of national environmental significance covered by the EPBC Act.

Concerns have been expressed by many that the proposals went too far, and risked seeing the effectiveness of our environmental stewardship diminished. As I write, it appears that the current proposals have hit a roadblock, and the proposed reforms are likely to stall - at least in the short term. Notwithstanding this, there remains a need to address complications within the current environmental assessment and approvals processes.

The current system would benefit from a reduction in areas of duplication. Doing so should not mean reduced environmental outcomes. As we ponder the current impasse between Commonwealth and States, we in the profession should always ask ourselves: 'Does any change proposed assist us to deliver excellence in practice and improve environmental outcomes?' This should be our benchmark for assessing proposed reforms, and any proposals must receive a tick on both counts.

Additionally, the pace and scope of consultation on the proposals left many concerned that any decision made would not reflect consideration of the full range of issues involved. Or, for that matter, deliver an outcome that met the benchmarks for improved environmental outcomes and for a more effective and efficient system.

The area of greatest perceived inefficiency between the States and the Commonwealth relates to the assessment of proposals for potential impacts on threatened species and communities. As a practitioner in environmental assessment and approvals, it is the reconciliation of two perspectives on these issues that frequently results in confusion for proponents, complications for professionals and significant additional costs for all, yet marginal benefit in terms of environmental outcomes. A sensible resolution of these issues would be broadly welcomed by environmental practitioners, and would provide direct benefit to the environment, our profession, proponents and regulators alike.



Photo by Bruce Hodgkinson

Regulatory change and review *ctd...*

An initial focus reconciling and removing dual biodiversity listings between State and Commonwealth, and having a single agreed process and decision maker for delivery of biodiversity offsets, would be a significant achievement. Other matters of MNES can remain at the Commonwealth level. This would see the Commonwealth retaining its responsibilities under the EPBC Act for:

- Nuclear Actions
- World Heritage Properties
- Migratory Species
- Ramsar wetlands
- Commonwealth Marine Areas, and
- The Great Barrier Reef

These are all genuinely MNES, and their oversight by the Commonwealth would seem appropriate.

The EIANZ will continue to look for opportunities to engage in the discussions on this subject. The Institute also encourages members to contribute to the achievement of regulatory reform that improves both what we do, how we do it, and better outcomes for the environment.

Michael Chilcott FEIANZ CEnvP

Thank You!
😊

Paul Keighley Steps Down from Students and Early Careers Chair

Paul Keighley is stepping aside from the role of chair of the Students and Early Careers at the end of 2012 and the position will be taken up by Memento Hudson. Paul will continue to serve on the Committee. The committee has been exceptionally active under Paul's direction and the EIANZ Executive on behalf of Council, extends its gratitude to Paul for the considerable time and effort he has put into the role. The Executive also wishes to express its support for Memento in the continuing role.

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2012 Annual Conference Prize Winners

EIANZ congratulates its recent award winners at the 2012 Annual Conference, all worthy of recognition by the EIANZ for their contributions to the profession and environmental practice:

Simon Molesworth Award - Outstanding Service to the Institute at Institute Level

Winner. Bill Haylock - Former Institute President

Mary Lou Morris Award - Outstanding Service to the Institute at a Divisional Level

Winner. Faye Woodward - NSW Division

Tor Hundloe Award - Young Environmental Practitioner of the Year

Winner. Vicki Low - SEQ Division

Eric Anderson Award for the Best Article in Australasian Journal of Environmental Management


Winner. Liam Phelan for his article entitled 'Managing climate risk: extreme weather events and the future of insurance in a climate-changed world'

Certified Environmental Practitioner of The Year

Winner. Alexandra Blood

Corporate Award for Excellence in Environmental Practice

Winner. BMT WBM for their excellent work throughout the year on Conserving Australia's Wetlands



EIANZ 2012 Conference – Sydney Harbour Cruise



Efficient Sediment Basin Design

The Sunshine Coast Regional Council (SCRC) has recognised and promoted the use of 'high efficiency' flowthrough sediment basins on construction sites. The high efficiency basins utilise a combination of technology including a rainfall activated coagulant dosing station, a hydraulically efficient design and floating off-takes to decant clean treated water. The design is based on the TP90 standard basin design developed by Auckland Regional Council and varies significantly from the widely-used standard batch treatment basins (otherwise referred to as type F or type D basins) that rely on manual treatment and manual pumping of water.

Before introducing the new specification, SCRC engaged a number of consultants to investigate the performance of standard batch treatment basins compared to the new high efficiency basins. These investigations comprised both modelling and a field trial. One study undertaken by the engineering consultancy WBM found that the new high efficiency basins are expected to capture 4 – 5.6 times more sediment than standard batch treatment basins. This study also found that standard batch treatment basins were only capable of capturing between 15-20% of all sediment whereas the high efficiency sediment basins were found to be capable of stopping up to 80-90% of sediment from mobilising offsite.

Dr Steve Skull from the SCRC has stated that the new flowthrough design would become the standard on the Sunshine Coast but wouldn't cost developers more than the current controls.

The study is entitled "Sunshine Coast Regional Council Flow Through Coagulation/Flocculation Sediment Basin Design Assessment", and is available for free download on the SCRC website www.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au.

Ben Starr, O2 Environment & Engineering

New Fellow – Dr Ronnie Harding

EIANZ welcomes its latest appointment to our group of Fellows – Dr Ronnie Harding.

Dr Ronnie Harding has had a highly distinguished academic career spanning over 40 years and is a founding member of the Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists. She has made many substantial contributions to environmental protection through her governance and advisory roles:

as a Board member and Governor of WWF; Board member of the Environmental Defenders Office; member of the Australian Museum Trust and Chair of the Research and Collections Advisory Committee to the Trust; Chair of the NSW Council on Environmental Education; as an Assistant Commissioner on the NSW Natural Resources Commission; and a member of the Metropolitan Water Independent Review Panel for the NSW Government.

Ronnie was the founding Director of the Institute of Environmental Studies at UNSW (in 1992) and in that role developed and ran the Master of Environmental Management program from 2000 until she retired from UNSW in late 2004. She is now a Senior Visiting Fellow in the Institute of Environmental Studies at UNSW.

Ronnie has championed the highest ethical and moral standards and is held in very high esteem with the wider professional community. She has been a member of the EIANZ since 1989.





Photo by Bec McIntyre

SEQ Division – ‘Where Next for Environmental Impact Assessment?’

Under the banner of the EIANZ SEQ Division, a group of impact assessment professionals in South-East Queensland has gathered to consider how the EIA process might be reformed. The EIA process remains a cornerstone of ecologically sustainable development, however among practitioners there are concerns that the role of EIA in informing and supporting sound planning in relation to projects has been diminished. The completion of an EIA has become less about identifying the real issues affecting ecologically sustainable outcomes and designing projects to avoid or mitigate them, and more about getting an approval from regulatory agencies. While approvals are a necessary outcome of an EIA process, inadequate investigations, analysis and design as part of an EIA can result in approvals that are conditioned to such an extent that they become uncertain ground for project proponents to implement.

The new EIA group in SEQ, led by Claire Gronow (experienced practitioner and former President of the SEQ Division) is engaged in the following:

- Reviewing EIA processes in Queensland to identify strengths and weaknesses and evaluate the extent to which the EIA process is contributing to sustainable decision making by proponents and government.

- Examining the needs of different participants in the process, including project proponents, regulators and the community, and evaluating the extent to which the EIA process in Queensland is meeting those needs.
- Identifying key issues relating to the quality of investigations, analysis and design of EIA in Queensland.

The group intends to develop a working paper on potential reforms to the EIA process in Queensland with a key focus on opportunities to improve the quality and efficacy of the process and outcomes. The paper will highlight characteristics of good practice EIA and identify reforms that will enable good practice to be achieved. The SEQ Division aims to release the working paper in early 2013.

There has been preliminary engagement with project proponents, consultants and regulatory agencies. The working group welcomes comments and suggestions from individuals and organisations about the subject of its deliberations in the context of Queensland practice.

Contact Claire Gronow at cgronow@ashgroveenvironmental.com for information about the group, or if you would like to comment on the working paper draft when it is available.

Claire Gronow MEIANZ

Inaugural Environmental Health and Disaster Management Training

On 27 and 28 October 2012, the International Federation of Environmental Health (IFEH) delivered the inaugural Environmental Health and Disaster Management training course in Brisbane. The course was led by environmental health professionals and attracted 30 public health and disaster management students and specialists from Indonesia, China, Japan, Korea and Australia. It was a unique opportunity for IFEH to test a modified version of the successful Environmental Health Training in Emergency Response (EHTER) Course, run by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention across the USA, in the Asia-Pacific region.

The environmental health risks and mitigation strategies in a disaster setting were identified and discussed during the course. This included discussion around the key risks such as those relating to drinking water, shelters, overcrowding, food safety, wastewater, disease-causing vectors, solid waste and hazardous materials. Case studies from recent disasters in Australia and a cholera outbreak in Papua New Guinea were also presented and discussed.

The course included a tour of the Queensland (State) Disaster Coordination Centre. This was a unique opportunity for an insight into how the disaster management system in Queensland and Australia operates and supports responses locally, across the state, nationally and internationally. The tour included an overview of the impact of, and response to, recent flooding in southern Queensland and Cyclone Yasi (a Category 5 system) in northern Queensland



Training Workshop Participants

The course concluded with a group exercise, which focused on what actions public health and disaster management professionals need to take when preparing for and responding to a cyclone. This included an overview and discussion of possible disaster response strategies and tools that can mitigate environmental health risks in the disaster setting.

Inaugural Environmental Health and Disaster Management Training *ctd...*



Group Exercises

Feedback from participants indicated that the course was very successful with 97% of participants indicating that it met their expectations. Also, the participants' awareness levels of the environmental health risks associated with a disaster increased on average by an estimated 25% for each participant at the conclusion of the two-day course. A very good outcome considering the content was designed to be delivered over four days.

The course was designed and delivered in a partnership between environmental health professionals, IFEH, CDC, the Alliance for Health Cities – Australian Chapter, Griffith University, Aspen Medical, AECOM, Emergency Management Queensland and the National Environmental Health Association (USA). The course could not have been successful without this partnership approach and the interaction of the participants.

As part of continuing to build environmental health capacity globally, IFEH is now working with its partners to deliver four-day courses in Bali, Indonesia, and the United Kingdom during May 2013.

IFEH is willing to deliver the course anywhere globally. For further please contact Ben Ryan, Director Disaster Training, Asia-Pacific, IFEH, via e-mail benjamin.ryan@my.jcu.edu.au.

Dr Peter Davey, President, International Federation of Environmental Health.
Ben Ryan, Director Disaster Training, Asia-Pacific, International Federation of Environmental Health.



EIANZ 2012 Corporate Award for Excellence in Environmental Practice- BMT WBM 'Conserving Australia's Wetlands'

Wetlands are among the world's most productive and biological diversity environments. They also provide tremendous economic benefits, including water supply, fisheries agriculture, timber production, energy resources, and recreational and tourism opportunities. Yet wetlands worldwide continue to be threatened through drainage, conversion, pollution and over-exploitation of their resources. Wetlands are also at direct risk due to the projected effects of climate change on these systems and particularly on coastal wetlands. The ability of wetlands to adapt to changing environmental conditions will be crucial to human communities and wildlife that depend on these important natural areas.

In Australia, BMT WBM is a recognised leader in the assessment and strategic long-term planning for freshwater, brackish and coastal wetlands, including the consideration of sea level rise and other projected climate changes. We regularly work with the Federal Government, State and Territory Governments, local authorities and catchment management bodies to assess and maintain the ecological character of Australia's Ramsar wetlands. Over the past 3 years, our involvement in ecological characterisation studies has ranged from wetland sites adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef, to the iconic Kakadu National Park in the Northern Territory, to the Currawinya Lakes in the arid zone of Central Australia and Corner Inlet along Australia's southern coastline. In addition, we have worked on many long-term strategy projects for maintaining or improving wetland condition, such as Hexham Swamp, NSW and the Caley Valley wetland near Abbot Point in North Queensland.

Project Profile: Hexham Swamp, NSW - Wetland Rehabilitation

Hexham Swamp near Newcastle was once an international haven for migratory birds, with more species than the iconic Kakadu National Park.

Floodgates built in the 1970s changed the wetland dramatically. For the past 15 years, BMT WBM has been at the centre of a very ambitious rehabilitation project for Hexham Swamp. To our knowledge, this is the largest estuarine wetland rehabilitation project in the southern hemisphere, covering some 2000 ha. BMT WBM has helped the local authority (Hunter-Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority) to develop, assess and then implement a strategy for opening the floodgates and restoring previous estuarine habitat. We are now interpreting monitoring results and helping to expand our collective knowledge on the response of such wetlands to restoration efforts. There are very few good examples of estuarine wetland rehabilitation in Australia (or even further abroad), so the knowledge we have gained through this project will be invaluable for successes in the future.

The rehabilitation methodology that we recommended involved taking a stepwise and precautionary approach wherein floodgates were progressively opened with intervening periods of intense monitoring. This was particularly important given the high degree of uncertainty in the predicted hydrological and ecological outcomes, despite using the best available computing modelling tools (including some developed by BMT WBM especially for this project). This adaptive approach was commended by consent agencies and incorporated into project approval conditions. The outcomes from this project have been shared through National and International conferences and academic journals.

Dr Phil Haines

General Manager Water and Environment
BMT WBM





Photo by Jen Ritson

Students and Early Careers Committee Update

2012 has been a busy year for the EIANZ Students and Early Careers Committee. The highlight of the year was the inaugural Students and Early Careers Congress, which was held at the Coal Loader Centre for Sustainability in Sydney on 23 October 2012. About 40 students and early career professionals heard from industry leaders, shared experiences and developed networks in the industry. We had plenty of fun along the way, including a water taxi ride across Sydney Harbour and networking drinks at the EIANZ Annual Conference welcome function. For those who couldn't make it, check out the presentations at the EIANZ website [here](#):

We certainly thank all the excellent speakers for their time and sharing their experiences. The feedback we received from attendees was generally positive and has spurred us on to make it a regular event. The venue was fantastic and we really appreciate North Sydney Council for their assistance in providing the venue. Claire Tucker and Sarah Campbell from the NSW Division, with the support of others, put in a massive effort in organising and running the Congress. Next year, we head to Melbourne, so put Tuesday 22 October 2013 in your diaries for the Congress. If you're interested in being involved in organising the 2013 Congress, contact us.

Other areas of focus for the Committee this year included increasing our interactions with universities, developing a more comprehensive student awards program (which was recently approved by the EIANZ Council), leading the EIANZ's involvement in the Australian Education for Sustainability Alliance and increasing student representation on EIANZ committees.



2012 Annual Conference and SECC Congress
Welcome Drinks



Photo by Jen Ritson

Students and Early Careers Committee Update *ctd....*



2012 SECC Congress Presentations



2012 SECC Congress Participants

In 2013, the Committee will be looking to continue the existing activities, implement the student awards program and assist in the coordination of the delivery of the Staged Training for Environmental Professionals (STEPs) program. The Committee is hoping to continue the tradition of the last two years and have a planning day early in the year.

The Committee has seen somewhat of a changing of the guard in recent months. Long-standing members of the Committee Vicki Low (SEQ), Craig Redmond (NZ) and Sara Redmond-Neal (Vic) have all made excellent contributions to the Committee's activities and have now stepped into other roles. Congratulations in particular to Vicki Low, who won the Young Environmental Practitioner of the Year for 2012.

While I'll be staying on as a Committee member, I'll be handing over the chair to Memento Hudson at the end of this year. We've got several other new members as well, including from some previously unrepresented divisions, such as the Northern Territory. I'm sure the 2013 Committee will do a fantastic job.

On a personal note, I've enjoyed my time immensely in the role of chair of this Committee and I thank all those who have contributed and supported our activities. I've made great friends and I think we've achieved a great deal together.

Paul Keighley

Chair, on behalf of the EIANZ Students and Early Careers Committee

+61 415 983 330, paul.keighley@gmail.com



Photo by Kathy Burton

International Organization for Standardization Update

The following updates are provided on new and revised ISO standards related to environmental management.

ISO TC268 Sustainable Communities

ISO has recently formed a new Technical Committee on Sustainable Communities with subcommittees developing standards on smart urban infrastructure metrics, sustainable development in communities and global city indicators. The TC has met once and the work of the subcommittees has now started.

ISO TR14069 Quantification and reporting of GHG emissions for organizations — Guidance for the application of ISO 14064-1

The final meeting of the working group developing ISO TR 14069 recently took place in London and the technical report should be published no later than the first quarter of 2013. The document is intended to support the use of 14064.1 for organisations and is not based on life-cycle analysis concepts like that being used for issues associated with the carbon footprint of products and services in ISO 14067 *Carbon footprint of products*.

ISO 14067 Carbon footprints of products – Requirements and guidelines for quantification and communications

This controversial standard is now at the Draft International Standard (DIS) stage and comments were reviewed by the national committee on 23 November 2012. These comments will shortly be submitted to the ISO TC207/SC7/WG2 Secretariat for resolution and this should lead to a Final DIS.

ISO 14001 and 14004 Environmental Management Systems

The revision of these two standards is being conducted in parallel, with meetings held in Rochester New York in late September and a further meeting scheduled in Sweden for late January 2013. The work is being complicated by the recently published new ISO high-level structure for management system standards and the need to follow this format. Three working drafts have been circulated and further work is required before a Committee Draft (CD) can be made available for public comment. At this stage it is unlikely a CD will be available before the third quarter of 2013.

ISO TS17021.2 - Conformity Assessment – Competence requirements for certification auditing of environmental management systems

ISO/CASCO completed work on 17021.2 which sets competence standards for auditors who conduct certification audits against the requirements of ISO 14001. This standard was published in this quarter of 2012. A new work item has been approved to determine the competence requirements for auditors who conduct certification audits against ISO 220121 *Event sustainability management systems*.

Should you require further information please contact the Institute office@eianz.org where your query will be passed on to our representative on the national committees that deal with these standards.

Stan Rodgers MEIANZ



Photo by Bec McIntyre

Opinion Piece – ‘A Model Profession’

This year is the 25th anniversary of our profession having a professional body to represent us in Australia. We are an emerging profession so our history is short. Our role, as a group of environment practitioners, is to find evidence, investigate ideas and interpret 'truth'. It's what we do for a living.

But our back story started in the 19th century when the forefathers campaigned to conserve wilderness. More milestones followed in 1972 with publication of *The Limits to Growth*¹ and in the 1980's when scientists discovered a man-made hole in the ozone layer above Antarctica. In the 1990's, *green* politics entered parliament and *terra nullius* was rejected by the High Court of Australia. By the time of the 1998 - 2007 drought, popular concern about sustainable development and climate was almost mainstream.

The profession we know today grew out of this environmental activism and has not let go of its origins. Early pioneers started their careers as advocates, investigators and writers, working on pollution problems, laws and policies in manufacturing, construction, logging and mining during that era. Anyone who was a pioneer of our profession did not study 'the environment' because such degrees did not exist then. Degrees were in science, engineering, urban planning, law and economics. When they graduated, eager activists sought jobs that advised others in how to 'consider' the environment. However the professionals were rarely in a position to run things and instead influenced others, usually more senior in age and status.

Successful pioneers progressed in their careers to become university professors, environment managers of corporations, consultants in private practice, and directors in government departments. But they still advised others. Rarely did an environmental professional make the final decision or define the brand of their organisation. They wrote policy, drafted environmental laws, designed the syllabus for environmental degrees, and set the EMS for organisations. But they did not take charge.

Recently, some Australian activists from the environmental movement of the 1970s are returning to the role of activist again in the new millennium. Now qualified as practitioners, they join climate action groups, think-tanks and not-for-profit environment organisations. Being an advocate is familiar territory for those that did this in their youth. Becoming an advocate again feeds the hope of becoming an environmental decision-maker in business, or taking charge of environmental policy in the public service. But it has its risks. Our profession's forte of being highly regarded and listened to – in an advisory role – tempts us to want to elevate our profession to the decision-making role. However there is a danger in returning to activist mode while we are establishing our profession and still in our formative years.

While a more adversarial role gives voice to the pioneers again, over the cacophony of environmental debate, it affects the dynamics of our profession. Boldness (or is it frustration?) is tempting us toward making decisions and predictions. Some see this shift as finally raising the environment to its due prominence in the community. Others worry that it might dumb-down the raft of complex environmental messages. Whichever and whomever may prove to be correct, the effect on our jobs has been a subtle shift in employers' expectation of what we should do for them. We used to be hired to use data to produce analytical reports, but increasingly we are expected to also use data to support decisions and make models. Some are asked to predict the future.

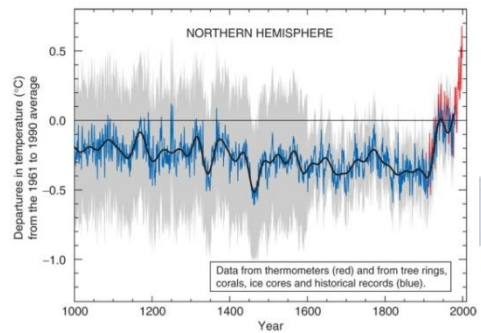
Psychology has indicated that most people are optimists. Business thrives on optimism and certainty. Corporate and government budgets allocate funds to justify business decisions and guide an organisation towards 'success'. The best of us in the environment profession have the ability to sort evidence from opinion, analyse a rational interpretation and do this without fear or favour. We present a viewpoint that is evidence-based that rings true to a scrutinising audience of logical and fair-minded people.



Photo by Bec McIntyre

'A Model Profession' ctd...

It's quite a skill, but it is both our strength and our weakness because it makes us a target. Increasingly our optimistic listeners – particularly the 'spiritual' optimists – are looking for a new framework to make sense of their world. When we make a model that predicts a scenario, it can be viewed as prophetic.

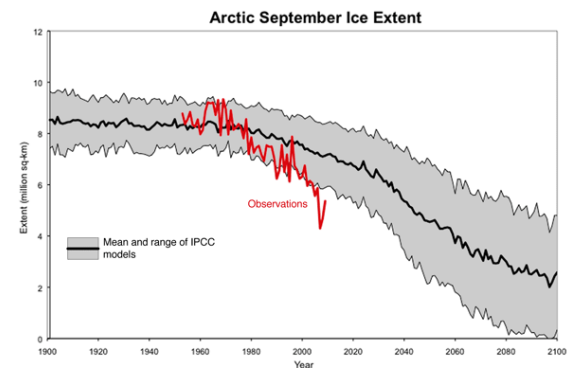


The 'Hockey Stick' Graph of world temperatures-
Nature,
392(6678):779-787

Today's environmental scientist can glow with the same aura as a priest or prophet did in the past. Environmental practitioners deserve their new and valued place in democracy because our analytical minds can guide decision-makers in society. But who are the decision-makers? Increasingly it is the voter, the customer and the person with the most involvement in a particular endeavour. Or the most to lose.

So a current challenge for our rising profession is to advise decision-makers without impinging on society's right to decide for itself. In a democracy, the community is always the final decision-maker. Perhaps it is timely to remind ourselves that our job remains as advisor, not decider. Our role is to interpret and communicate, so others can decide the direction in which to go next. It's a humbling thought.

Currently the most contentious of environmental decisions is climate change. Environmental modellers rely on images and scenarios to explain this complex topic to a general audience. Unfortunately, two notable graphs about climate change that gained popular attention over recent decades left the wrong impression in the public's collective consciousness.



Arctic Ice Melt Graph - IPCC 2001 AR4

The Hockey Stick

In 1998, the eminent journal, *Nature*², published a graph covering six centuries of world temperature using tree rings, corals, ice cores, historical records and instrumental data. It sparked enormous public interest in global warming and was nicknamed the 'hockey stick graph' because temperatures shot up exponentially after the date of industrial revolution. But the graph³ was criticised for neglecting the 'medieval warm period' of 1000-1300 A.D. The author was later vindicated for what he was trying to do academically, but too late to rectify damage done to the credibility of the discussion.

Arctic Ice Melt

Another example is the plethora of models supporting the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Fourth Assessment Report (IPCC AR4). All the modelling anticipated a decline in Arctic sea ice cover, but few individual model simulations showed trends comparable to what actual happened⁴. Instead Arctic sea ice declined sharply from 1953 to 2006. Modelling managed to correctly forecast that, in September each year at the end of the melt season, the extent of ice would shrink more than in the recorded past. Their mistake was that, as a group, the models seriously underestimated the pace of melting.



Photo by Bec McIntyre

'A Model Profession' *ctd...*

While the difference between observed and modelled melting is not dramatically different in winter, predictions for summer showed generally poor model performance. For the modellers, reality happened much faster than theoretical prediction.

Chaos Theory

The commonality between these two graphs that so captured the public imagination – apart from being the products of climate research – is that they were both wrong. Neither was falsified but they were no match for *ground truthing*. This does not surprise those of us who witnessed the rise of Chaos Theory in parallel with the environmental movement during our lifetime. In 1961, the climate scientist Edward Lorenz was using a simple digital computer to run a weather simulation. In his laboratory, he decided to repeat a sequence of data to watch it again. To save time, he started the simulation in the middle of its course. His second attempt used data entered from a printout to repeat the calculated simulation.

To his surprise, the weather that the computer began to predict was completely different from the weather calculated previously. Lorenz tracked down the reason to his computer printout which, although it had precision to six decimal points, rounded variables off to three decimal points (ie a value like 0.506127 was printed as 0.506). Such a small difference in the number of decimal points should not have effected a weather simulation. But it did. Finally – and controversially – Lorenz concluded that weather is predictable, but only for about one week ahead at a time.

The significance of this discovery is that, in modelling, small changes in initial conditions produce large changes in the long-term trajectory of an algorithm. After his accidental discovery, Lorenz gave his name to *Lorenz attractors* and he was an early pioneer of Chaos Theory. Eventually, Chaos Theory argued that long-term climate forecast is not predicable at all.

The reason why modelling cannot have the status of a prediction is because the outputs are spread too wide across scenarios and assumptions. They are far too wide to rely upon as gospel. A good model conforms to past time periods because the model is calibrated with past data. Any model that cannot verify the past should be disregarded completely. The place of modelling in science is its usefulness as a mathematical tool to consider scenarios and explore possibilities.

You don't need to be a proponent of Chaos Theory to believe that modelling cannot predict the future. You don't have to be a scientist to think that sustainability, the environment and climate science are like other branches of science - evidence-based. Nevertheless, there is a challenge here for us as practitioners to clarify our influential role. Let's not get carried away with our powerful algorithms or new found prominence in society. Let's remember that our role is to communicate impeccably, while we are analysing the world to the best of our ability.

Suzanne Little MEIANZ

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- 1 Meadows, D.H., Meadows, D.L., Randers, J., Behrens, W.W. 1972 Massachusetts Institute of Technology *The Limits to Growth - A Report for the Club of Rome's project on the predicament of mankind* Earth Island, London.
- 2 Mann, M.E., Bradley, R.S. & Hughes, M.K. 1998. Global-scale temperature patterns and climate forcing over the past six centuries', *Nature*, 392(6678):779-787.
- 3 Figure 2.20, adapted from the MBH99 IPCC TAR WG1 2001 Summary, The Working Group 1 Part of the IPCC Third Assessment. Figure 5: Millennial Northern Hemisphere temperature reconstruction from AD 1000 to 1999.
- 4 Stroeve, J., Holland, M.M., Meier, W., Scambos, T. and Serreze, M. 2007. Arctic sea ice decline: Faster than forecast. *Geophysical Research Letters*, 34, L09501, doi: 10.1029/2007GL029703, <http://www.ualberta.ca/~eec/Stroeve2007.pdf>



Photo by Terry Reís

Member Snapshot – Lara Mottee

Quals:

Bachelor of Science (Communications) Hons, UNSW
Master of Environmental Management, UNSW

What do you do?

I'm an Environmental Scientist and Spatial Systems Specialist with the engineering consultancy, Kellogg, Brown & Root Pty Ltd (KBR).

How did you get there?

I started with KBR as a graduate after finishing my university training. Initially I thought I wanted to be a transport planner, but now my career has made me more of a generalist environmental consultant, with a specialty in spatial systems of course.

Best aspects of your work?

Diversity of infrastructure projects and travel!

Biggest environmental concern?

My biggest environmental concern is the frequent dissociation of the environment and communities by business. In a world where we are so concerned about the economics of everything we do, I think often we lose sight of what's important. I'm a huge fan of the saying 'There are no jobs on a dead planet'. It's so true. Communities and the environment should come first. I'm not saying all businesses behave this way, but we've still got a long way to go.



How and why did you get involved with EIANZ?

I joined up with EIANZ after returning from studying in the UK and wanting to be part of an equivalent organisation to IEMA in my home location, to engage with other professionals in my industry.



Photo by Terry Reís

Member Snapshot – *Dave Fleming*

Quals: BSc (Wildlife Biology), Honours in Landscape Ecology

What do you do?

I am currently working at Arrow Energy's Dalby office (3 hours west of Brisbane) as Corporate Environment Advisor – Biodiversity & Fauna. Arrow is one of the four main proponents of Queensland's CSG-to-LNG industry. I am responsible for developing the over-arching procedures, policies and guidelines relating to biodiversity management including fauna, threatened species and communities. I am also developing Arrow's environmental offsets program.

How did you get there?

I started out as an ecologist with a small consultancy servicing the residential and commercial development industry in south-east Queensland and north-eastern NSW and then moved into larger consulting companies targeting the resources and infrastructure sectors. I then decided I needed a tree-change and moved out to Toowoomba, west of Brisbane. There I eventually took up a position with Arrow as a Field Ecologist, assessing proposed well pads and infrastructure sites. After a corporate reshuffle, I was placed into the Corporate HSE department to support the "E" component, which so often gets forgotten amid human health and safety concerns.

Best aspects of your work?

The best aspect of my job is being given the opportunity to drive the biodiversity management program towards achieving real outcomes for Arrow and Queensland's incredible wildlife.

Although I don't often get to go into the field as much anymore, just being able to work in a rural town such as Dalby gives me a sense of perspective that is so easily lost being in a city environment.

Biggest environmental concern?

I have always had an interest in fauna and my biggest concern is the general lack of knowledge about species' biology and ecology.

Even some of the basic information about lesser known or encountered fauna is lacking, which severely impacts on how well we can manage such species and their habitats during construction activities.

How and why did you get involved with EIANZ?

I have been an EIANZ member since 2007 and was always keen to be involved with an organization that attempted to drive professionalism and increased recognition of the environmental industry. I also admire the CEnvP program for providing an avenue for environmental professionals to attain recognition within and outside the industry. To that end, I was recently awarded CEnvP status.





Photo by Terry Reís

Member Snapshot – *Kanako Itagaki*

Quals:
Masters in Resource Studies at Lincoln University

What do you do?
I'm a research student studying the relationship between the public and biosecurity policy in New Zealand.



How did you get there?
I was quite interested in biosecurity policy in New Zealand because it is well recognized in the world. So I moved to New Zealand from Japan to study this issue.

Best aspects of your work?
My study aims to find out the role of public opinion in environmental decision making. It covers the issue of political responsiveness to public opinion in New Zealand. It may contribute to bridge the gap between the public and policy makers.

Biggest environmental concern?
Pest problems and lack of public awareness towards environmental issues.

How and why did you get involved with EIANZ?
There was a seminar run by EIANZ at Lincoln University and students were encouraged to become members of the EIANZ. I found the Institute very interesting and relevant to my studies, so I decided to get involved.

Member Snapshot – *David Peterson*

Quals:
Bachelor Environmental Science (Hons 1),
Graduate Diploma Design for Bushfire Prone Areas,
FPAABPAD-A Certified Practitioner

What do you do?
Employee of Eco Logical Australia focusing on bushfire protection consulting for a variety of clients/projects Australia-wide. Also manage the company's bushfire consulting discipline and the Gosford Office.



How did you get there?
Started out in local government on an environmental cadetship whilst studying for my undergraduate degree. I was asked to manage Council's response to the changes in bushfire legislation, which I soon became the expert in. This was followed with a secondment to the NSW Rural Fire Service and eventually the leap into consulting in private industry. I've been consulting for 10 years.

Best aspects of your work?
Variety – being able to work in different areas, on different issues for different clients.

Biggest environmental concern?
Population growth and depletion of natural resources.

How and why did you get involved with EIANZ?
I've considered membership for a long time and eventually got involved as part of the mentoring program.

New Members

Division	Category	First Name	Last Name
ACT	ASSOCIATE	Lauren	Lambert
ACT	FULL MEMBER	Roland	Breckwoldt
ACT	FULL MEMBER	Joel	Garrigues
FNQ	ASSOCIATE	Samantha	Foster
FNQ	FULL MEMBER	Julia	Chandler
FNQ	FULL MEMBER	Melissa	Jess
FNQ	FULL MEMBER	Amanda	Smedley
NSW	ASSOCIATE	Matt	Bielby
NSW	ASSOCIATE	Anthony	Ko
NSW	ASSOCIATE	Gary	Leung
NSW	ASSOCIATE	Hailee	Reckless
NSW	ASSOCIATE	Angus	Wythes
NSW	FULL MEMBER	Chris	Berg
NSW	FULL MEMBER	Angelo	Berios
NSW	FULL MEMBER	Jacqueline	Bonnitcha
NSW	FULL MEMBER	Aaron	Bowden
NSW	FULL MEMBER	James	Elliman
NSW	FULL MEMBER	Kristen	Foley
NSW	FULL MEMBER	Raymond	Fowke
NSW	FULL MEMBER	Braith	Gilchrist
NSW	FULL MEMBER	Bryn	Johns
NSW	FULL MEMBER	Michael	Luger
NSW	FULL MEMBER	Hugh	Madden
NSW	FULL MEMBER	Sofie	Mason-Jones
NSW	FULL MEMBER	Kevin	Morgan
NSW	FULL MEMBER	Lara	Mottee
NSW	FULL MEMBER	Richard	Phillips
NSW	FULL MEMBER	Andrew	Reefman
NSW	FULL MEMBER	Peter	Rimmer
NSW	FULL MEMBER	Mike	Ritchie
NSW	FULL MEMBER	John	Schooneveldt
NSW	FULL MEMBER	Danyil	Skora
NSW	FULL MEMBER	Summer	Steward
NSW	FULL MEMBER	Craig	Tucker
NSW	FULL MEMBER	Jenny	Walsh
NSW	FULL MEMBER	Chris	Weston
NSW	FULL MEMBER	Michael	Woolley
NSW	STUDENT	Arsha	Branson
NSW	STUDENT	Benjamin	Madden
NSW	STUDENT	Stephen	Meiklejohn
NSW	STUDENT	Maria Paula	Moreno Medina
NSW	STUDENT	Jan	Rajnoch
NSW	STUDENT	Zhuang	Zhao

Division	Category	First Name	Last Name
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NZ	FULL MEMBER	Daniela Ramirez	Azua
NZ	FULL MEMBER	Mark	Ballard
NZ	FULL MEMBER	Dean	Botica
NZ	FULL MEMBER	Stephen James	Burgham
NZ	FULL MEMBER	Carolyn	Cox
NZ	FULL MEMBER	Arsini	Hanna
NZ	FULL MEMBER	Nicola	Malloch
NZ	FULL MEMBER	Belinda	Mathers
NZ	FULL MEMBER	Jennifer Hunter	Millar
NZ	FULL MEMBER	Manuel	Seidel
NZ	FULL MEMBER	Karen Lenore	Tipper
NZ	FULL MEMBER	Amber	Trebitsch
NZ	STUDENT	Wayne	Godfrey
NZ	STUDENT	Kanako	Itagaki
NZ	STUDENT	Kewyn	Miller
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SEQ	ASSOCIATE	Angela	Johnstone
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SEQ	FULL MEMBER	Emma	Walker
SEQ	FULL MEMBER	Stephen	Walker
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SEQ	FULL MEMBER	Siminee	Wratten
SEQ	FULL MEMBER	Paul	Wright
SEQ	FULL MEMBER	Adrian	Zammit
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SEQ	STUDENT	Sarah	Chapman
SEQ	STUDENT	Amanda	Dudgeon
SEQ	STUDENT	Jodie	Farthing
SEQ	STUDENT	Luo	Huyuan
SEQ	STUDENT	Tanya	Kryger
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SEQ	STUDENT	Jill	Sorensen
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VIC	FULL MEMBER	Amy	Lane
VIC	FULL MEMBER	Andrea	McIntosh
VIC	FULL MEMBER	Brent	Ridgard
VIC	FULL MEMBER	Christopher	White
VIC	FULL MEMBER	Megan	Williams
VIC	STUDENT	Penelope	Newton
VIC	STUDENT	Madeleine	Parris
VIC	STUDENT	Jamie	Truong
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WA	FULL MEMBER	Cian	Brennan
WA	FULL MEMBER	Emily	Gates
WA	FULL MEMBER	Andrew	Jefferies
WA	FULL MEMBER	Gary	Matson
WA	FULL MEMBER	Sharee	Rasmussen
WA	FULL MEMBER	Taryn	Wilks



Photo by Jen Ritson

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