



Photo by Greg Ford

The Environmental Practitioner

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In this September issue of TEP, we explore changes to Victoria's Regulations for Native Vegetation Clearing, consider new recommendations for management of air quality and related health issues in Australia, and hear the latest plans for STEPs and the EIANZ Conference in October.

In This Issue

Editorial	2
From the President's Desk	3
Maritime infrastructure and the protected seahorse	6
Next Generation of Impact Assessment Professionals	10
Changes to Victoria's Native Vegetation Clearing Regs	11
Impacts on Health of Air Quality in Australia	16
Member Snapshots	19
New Members	23
EIANZ Directory	24

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Photo by Bec McIntyre

Editorial

Dear Environmental Practitioners,

Welcome to the September 2013 issue of *The Environmental Practitioner*. There has been an amazing groundswell of support for TEP this issue – thanks to all those who came forth with your ideas, photos and news snippets.

This issue rides in on a sea of political change with the recent Australian Federal elections. No doubt we will see some major alterations in the approach to national environmental impact assessment, regulation and policy under the Coalition government. I'm sure many of you will be as interested as I to see how our professional and technical operating environments evolve under the new government, and what flow-on effects may occur on a state-basis.

It is no doubt a good juncture for EIANZ to re-visit its potential and willingness to influence government policy and regulation. And there is possibly another dimension from this that could be built onto the proposed framework of the upcoming conference, namely: 'Adapt, Innovate, Advocate... Business as usual is not an option'. In any case, I am certain the conference will prove, as always, to be a stimulating meeting point for new ideas and visions for the future of environmental practice.

The EIANZ AGM will be held next month, after which we may see a new communications editor. In any instance, it has a rewarding and interesting journey for me to prepare this newsletter and thank you to all who have contributed in this and previous years!

Much appreciation is due to the current executive and council for their tireless efforts and enthusiasm in growing the Institute and its offerings to members. All of this is well-supported by our diligent administrative team.

The closing date for the December newsletter is 29 November 2013, so please send your submissions to communications-editor@eianz.org by then.

Thanks again!

Bec McIntyre
EIANZ Communications Editor





Photo by Graham A Brown & Associates

From the President's Desk

This is my final 'From the President's Desk' before the EIANZ AGM in Melbourne at the end of October.

For me, these past two years have been a wonderful experience at the helm of Australia's leading professional association for environmental practitioners. It's provided me an opportunity to build on my contribution over the previous three years as Treasurer.

We've had some wonderful successes. The continued development of our STEPS program (with a launch activity to be held at our Annual Conference on Melbourne in October), the development of the EIANZ Corporate Plan for the period 2012-2015, and the delivery of our most successful Annual Conference in Sydney last October have been highlights.

We've also seen the continued strengthening of our NZ Chapter. Earlier this year the Chapter held its first EIANZ National Symposium. This year has also seen the building of stronger relationships with the Commonwealth through the joint delivery of Biodiversity Offsets Training sessions in Queensland, NSW, Victoria and WA. My thanks go to those Divisions for their support in the delivery of these initiatives.

Beyond that, our State-based Divisions in Australia and our active groups in the major NZ cities of Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch continue to deliver great professional development and networking activities for members. Those activities are the result of the hard work of our volunteer committee members, very often supported by our small team of staff and contract support personnel. My thanks go to all of them for working to deliver value to members.

We've revised and updated the EIANZ Code of Ethics and Professional Practice. This is a core document for professional practice, and as the pressures on practitioners to provide ethical practice increase, this Code will provide the bedrock on which our members will build the EIANZ Vision of 'Excellence in Environmental Practice'.



And, of course, we continue to publish an outstanding journal – the Australasian Journal of Environmental Management. To Helen Ross, Bill Carter and the editorial team at AJEM, my sincere thanks as well for all their hard work.

It has also been very heartening to see the EIANZ's financial position strengthen year on year across each of the past five years. We now stand in a position of strength, enabling us to take important decisions for the future development of the EIANZ with confidence.

In writing this final piece for this Executive term, I want to express my great thanks to Bec McIntyre, our Communications Editor for the past four years. She has done an outstanding job in producing the EIANZ Newsletter. Its content has been relevant, interesting and timely. Importantly, she has maintained a regularity of service which has been exceptional. Thank you Bec!



Photo by Graham A Brown & Associates

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

We still have some challenges ahead between now the end of our Executive term. Most notably, we have a great Annual Conference that will be delivered in Melbourne on 23 and 24 October this year. Our Organising Committee for the Conference, supported by the Victorian Division, has developed a great program for those two days, built around the theme of Adapt, Innovate, Advocate. I encourage all of you to take up this outstanding opportunity for professional development and networking and join us in Melbourne. You would have received your Registration Brochure for the 2013 Conference in the mail.

For those of you who are employers, the Conference represents a great opportunity for you to demonstrate your commitment to your staff members careers by supporting their attendance and taking up a sponsorship or partnership package. I encourage you to get in touch with Anne Young in our Central Office to discuss your interest.

Finally, we are in an election year, and not just for the Australian Government. EIANZ is also about to have its Executive elections, with multiple nominations for several positions. However, we also did not receive nominations this year for two positions on the Executive - Secretary and Communications Editor. Members interested in contributing to the work of the Institute at its highest level should be in contact with Anne Young to communicate that interest. The incoming Executive will be looking for expressions of interest to fill these positions through invitation. Again, my thanks to you all for your support these past two years.

Michael Chilcott
EIANZ President

EIANZ 'Learning to Adapt' Series Finalist in Green Globe Awards

In August the NSW Minister for the Environment, Robyn Parker, announced that the EIANZ Learning To Adapt Series is a finalist in the Green Globe Awards in the Climate Change Leadership category!.

This is fantastic recognition of the hard work the Committee has put into the program. The winners will be announced on 24 September at a presentation at Parliament House.

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/greenglobes/2013/ccl.htm>

New Book on Conservation Corridors Published by CSIRO

Recently a new book titled "Linking Australia's Landscapes" has been published by CSIRO. The book is edited by James Fitzsimons (of The Nature Conservancy), Ian Pulsford (an environmental consultant) and Geoff Wescott (of Deakin University).

The book contains over a dozen case studies of actual current corridor projects from across the nation and focuses on the lessons learned in these practical attempts at linking larger protected areas into continuous corridors of native vegetation. These studies are supported by overviews of the social and other critical elements of connectivity conservation.

Further information about the book is available at: www.publish.csiro.au



DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY TO APPLY FOR CENVP STATUS AND BE RECOGNISED!

NEXT CEnvP APPLICATION CLOSING DATE FRIDAY 28 MARCH 2014

Certified through a process of peer and Board assessment, Certification can provide a greater level of assurance to the community, employers, clients and professional associates of the credentials and peer recognition of an environmental professional. Maintaining high quality professional outputs of practitioners not only has positive environmental and social results, but may offer economic gains by enhancing sector competitiveness. The CEnvP Scheme was established in 2004 as an initiative of EIANZ. It is Australasia's first certification scheme for general environmental practice, and one of the first in the world. There are currently over 460 CEnvPs across Australia and New Zealand (as at Aug 2013). 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.
Australia: 03 9001 6948
New Zealand: 03 741 3102
info@cenvp.org**

The Board of the Certified Environmental Practitioner Scheme encourage suitably qualified practitioners to participate in this important initiative for the environment profession. To qualify for CEnvP, you will need:

- An environment-related degree;
- 5 years of relevant environmental experience over the past 10 years;
- 3 referees prepared to vouch for your skills, performance and professional conduct;
- A signed statement of ethical conduct;
- Commitment to continued professional development through a minimum of 100 points every two years;
- Additional supporting evidence of claim including at least 2 Referee reports.

An assessment interview conducted by a certification panel completes the process.

EIANZ Members and Fellows receive significant discounts on application and annual certification fees.

For further details on how to apply for CEnvP or the Specialist Certification programs, please visit www.CEnvP.org/apply.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT & ECOLOGY SPECIALISTS

The Certified Environmental Practitioner Scheme (CEnvP) launched its new Ecology Specialist and Impact Assessment Specialist programs in December 2010.

CEnvPs Specialist Certification Programs give recognition to professionals who have high levels of expertise and ethical standards in specialist areas of practice such as Ecology and Environmental Impact Assessment (IA).

Current CEnvPs should visit the 'Current CEnvP' section of the website for details on how to apply for Specialist Certification as the requirements are slightly different.



Photo by Raphael Morgan

Maritime Infrastructure and the Protected Seahorse

By Raphael Morgan

What are seahorses, where do they live and how do they reproduce?

Seahorses, together with seadragons, pipefish, pipehorses, ghostpipefish and seamoths, belong to a group of fish called syngnathiformes. They can be found in a variety of habitats ranging from deep reefs to coastal macroalgal beds, seagrass habitats, or around man-made structures such as jetties or shark nets.

The reproductive strategy of most syngnathiformes is unique in that the female deposits eggs on or in the male's body for incubation and the male then gives birth. Ghostpipefish are an exception as the female retains care of the eggs. Seahorses give birth to highly developed miniature seahorses, which require no further parental care once born. Some species of pipefish and pipehorses give birth to active hatchlings and some are able to swim long distances before settling. In contrast, the seamoths broadcast pelagic eggs with the larvae and juveniles then travelling on the ocean currents (DPI (Fisheries) 2013).

What is their conservation status in Australia?

Seahorses are afforded some level of legal protection in all states. For example, in NSW, all species of syngnathiformes are listed as protected under the NSW Fisheries Management Act 1994 and it is an offence to have in your possession, collect or harvest any species of seahorse or their relatives in NSW without a permit. Furthermore, the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 protects all syngnathids, a sub-group of syngnathiformes, found in Commonwealth waters, making it an offence to kill, injure, take, trade, move or export any members of the family without a Commonwealth approval permit.

What pressures are they put under?

Syngnathiformes have become vulnerable to human impacts due to the continued degradation of their habitats as well as increasing overseas demand for their use in traditional medicines. In particular, as they can occur in shallow coastal environments and are known to use man-made structures such as jetties for habitat, seahorses are vulnerable to disturbances which may occur during the demolition and/or refurbishment of maritime infrastructure. Compared to other more mobile fish species, the seahorse and their relatives are more at risk from direct impacts due to their reduced mobility, which makes them less able to avoid impacts, and their cryptic nature, which makes them more likely to be missed and discounted during pre-development surveys if these are not undertaken by suitably qualified and experienced ecologists.

What can we do to help?

As the syngnathiformes are protected it is important to consider these species when assessing potential environmental impacts to their habitat and when developing management measures, should these species be known or likely to occur within the impact zone. Due to their restricted mobility, avoiding impacts by relocating communities to an adequate receiver site outside the impact zone has been used in the past. This is an effective measure if habitat is to be removed, such as during the demolition or refurbishment of jetties or other marine infrastructure.



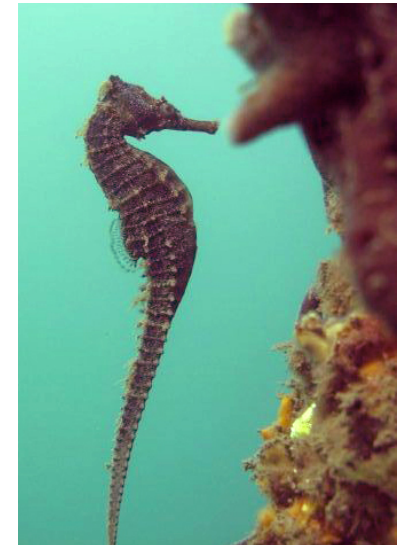
Photo by Raphael Morgan

Maritime Infrastructure and the Protected Seahorse *ctd...*

nghenvironmental assessed the potential marine ecology impacts of the refurbishment of the HMAS Platypus wharf in Neutral Bay, Sydney. Surveys of over 200 piles recorded the presence of White's Seahorse, a species found in Sydney Harbour. In order to avoid impacts, a permit application to the NSW DPI (Fisheries) together with a relocation plan was prepared in order to transfer the seahorses to an appropriate receiver site which provided good quality habitat for the species. Considering the mating behaviour of this particular species, known to form breeding pairs that are maintained across breeding seasons, it was important that any pairs captured were kept and released together. The successful relocation was undertaken outside the breeding season of the species prior to the refurbishment and just before the installation of a silt curtain around the wharf. The curtain acted as a barrier to minimise the risk of any other seahorses that may have been located nearby from relocating to the wharf during construction. This case study highlights the need for using qualified marine ecologists to ensure the ecology of specific species is considered when assessing the potential impacts on seahorses and developing appropriate management measures.



Seadragon over seagrass



Seahorse



Photo by Alexandra Hare (RPS)

EIANZ STEPs – Getting Closer!

EIANZ STEPs is planned to be launched in Melbourne at the EIANZ Conference in October with a view to accepting participant registrations in 2014.

This is an exciting initiative for the Institute and one which will enhance the early career training for environmental practitioners and assist practitioners in becoming certified under the CEnvP scheme.

EIANZ STEPs will enhance the understanding of the core values and attributes that an environmental practitioner requires (e.g. an understanding of environmental ethics).

There is an opportunity for members to further contribute to EIANZ STEPs. Please go to www.eianz.org where you will find more information on the Program and details about how you can provide feedback.

The EIANZ STEPs team looks forward to receiving your ideas and suggestions.

Thank you

Nicole Brown
EIANZ STEPs Program Manager



The Tao of Sustainability

This course is designed to challenge popular misconceptions and develop a deeper understanding of how we can achieve truly sustainable societies. During this week-long course, expert facilitators will help you develop your knowledge, thinking and practice around all aspects of sustainability, including transport, energy, waste, food, biodiversity, community, business, economics and their inter-connections.

The Tao (or 'The Way') series of courses are led by Anthony James, Head of the OASES Graduate School, and were developed with the late Professor Frank Fisher, an acknowledged doyen of sustainability and Australia's Inaugural Environmental Educator of the Year.

This course is intended for all people with a deep interest in sustainability, whether you have corporate responsibility in this field, are working in government or the not-for-profit sector, or are simply seeking to become a more informed citizen and contributor to your community. This course is designed to be fun, potentially challenging and confronting, utterly illuminating and ultimately liberating.

For more info and to apply, call Anthony James on 03 9819 3502 or visit www.oases.edu.au/courses.



Registrations are now open for the EIANZ 2013 Annual Student and Early Career Congress!

To mirror the EIANZ Annual Conference for 2013, which will be held in Melbourne on the 23th and 24th of October, the Student and Early Career Congress, to be held on the 22nd October, will also be addressing the theme – 'Adapt, Innovate, Advocate... Business as usual is not an option'.

Addressing two major themes of environment and sustainability, the Student and Early Career Congress will discuss sustainable agriculture and sustainable energy. Keynote speakers will be:

- **Matthew Knight, Beyond Zero Emissions**, who will discuss the plan to transition Australia to 100% renewable energy.
- **Kate Sargeant, Department of Environment and Primary Industries**, who will discuss the Evergraze project and discuss the how agricultural land can be used for both production and conservation.
- **Gordon Young, formally of the Australia Youth Ambassadors for Development (AYAD)**, who will discuss the AYAD program and his experience having just recently come back from a 12-month project in Indonesia.

Targeted at students and early career professional, other presenters on the day will discuss tips for job hunting, transitioning from full-time study to a professional environmental career, overseas opportunities and the future of the environmental profession.



Venue: Donkey Wheel House, 673 Bourke Street Melbourne.

Date: 22nd October 2013.

Cost (incl. GST): \$70 EIANZ members/students full- or part-time), \$100 non-member, non-student price.

The Congress program is well underway and we'll keep you informed as we progress. We're very excited to be holding the 2013 Student and Early Careers Congress in Melbourne and we look forward to seeing you in October and receiving your Conference registration in the near future. Should you require assistance, please contact EIANZ Central Office on (03) 9654 7473 or via email at office@eianz.org.



Photo by Steve Cupitt (RPS)

Developing the Next Generation of Impact Assessment Professionals

EIANZ is developing the Staged Training for Environmental Professionals (STEPS) program to support and develop individuals through the early part of their career so they can obtain the competencies needed to become skilled and ethical practitioners. A competency framework is the foundation of EIANZ STEPS. The framework outlines the core competencies needed by early career environmental professionals to do their jobs well and training and development options to build these. The focus of the framework is to bridge the skills gap between what is learned at university and the expectations and needs of workplaces.

A core competency is: 'Understands and uses environmental impact and risk assessment tools, techniques and methods'. What does this mean in practice? The EIANZ Special Interest Section on Impact Assessment is holding a workshop at the EIANZ Conference in October to discuss this question. It is a challenging task as the environmental profession is broad and many practitioners may have little or no involvement in formal impact assessment processes. Yet, impact assessment underlies much of what we do as environmental practitioners - all of us would have considered how our actions are affecting the environment. Consequently, there are basic impact assessment competencies that should be held by all practitioners.

A background paper is being prepared for the conference addressing required competencies in elements such as:

- Gathering information needed for an environmental assessment
- Analysing and interpreting data.
- Undertaking impact and risk assessment
- Preparing assessment documentation
- Utilising regulatory processes
- Monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of environmental management.

If you would like to contribute to developing this paper, please contact the Chair of the Special Interest Section, Lachlan Wilkinson lwilkinson@jbsg.com.au

In a Nutshell: the changes to Victoria's Native Vegetation Permitted Clearing Regulations

By Clio Gates Foale & Chad Browning

www.ehpartners.com.au

In September 2013 the Victorian Government will integrate the 'Permitted Clearing of Native Vegetation Biodiversity Assessment Guidelines' (Biodiversity Assessment Guidelines) into the Victorian Planning Provisions (VPP). This will replace the 2002 policy A Framework for Action: Native Vegetation Management in Victoria ('the Framework'), and initiate significant changes to vegetation clearing controls and the environmental offset process in Victoria. The impending changes aim to reduce 'greentape' and provide greater certainty to proponents, consistent with the recent trend of environmental deregulation across the eastern States. Introduction of the Victorian Regulations aligns with a similar review of native vegetation controls in NSW and follows the Queensland Government's enactment of the Vegetation Management Framework Amendment Bill in May 2013.

The policy objective will transition from 'Net Gain' under the Framework to 'No Net Loss' under the Biodiversity Assessment Guidelines. The purpose of this change will be to redirect the focus from 'native vegetation' to the 'contribution that native vegetation makes to biodiversity'.

Risk-based Assessment

The cornerstone of the new regulations will be a Risk-based Assessment, with all proposals involving the removal of vegetation to be assessed through one of three risk-based pathways (Low, Moderate or High), and a variable three-step process of 'avoid, minimise and offset' depending on the applicable pathway. Risk pathways will be dependent on the location and extent of clearing proposed, though it is expected that 90% of applications will follow the Low Risk pathway.

Low Risk applications:

- Site assessment not required.
- Extent and condition of native vegetation based on modelled data rather than on-ground assessments.
- Habitat for rare or threatened species is generally not considered.
- Not required to demonstrate the avoidance or minimisation of impacts on native vegetation and biodiversity.

Moderate and High Risk applications:

- Site assessment required.
- Extent and condition of native vegetation based on on-ground habitat hectare assessment by a qualified ecologist.
- Presence of habitat for rare or threatened species will be used to determine the applicable offset pathway.
- Must demonstrate how the removal of native vegetation and biodiversity impacts have been minimised.
- High Risk applications to remove native vegetation that 'makes a significant contribution to Victoria's biodiversity' must demonstrate impact avoidance.

Offsets

The sourcing of offsets has been streamlined, with DEPI encouraging over-the-counter offset transactions using 'biodiversity equivalence units'. Biodiversity equivalence units have replaced the requirement to source separate offsets for individual biodiversity attributes, including remnant vegetation, Large Old Trees, Scattered Trees and habitat for rare or threatened species.

Changes to Victoria's Native Vegetation Permitted Clearing Regulations *ctd...*

Additionally, the Framework 'like-for-like' requirements for offset type, quality and location will be scaled back, with the Permitted Clearing Regulations allowing more flexibility in offset identification by dividing offsets into two categories, General and Specific.

Low Risk applications:

Offset obligations will be calculated based on a General Biodiversity Equivalence Score, derived from the Condition score, Vegetation Extent and Strategic Biodiversity Score.

A Risk Factor of 1.5 is applied to General Offsets (i.e. the offset must have a General Biodiversity Score at least 1.5x higher than the native vegetation removed).

Moderate and High Risk applications:

Offset obligations will be calculated based on a Specific Biodiversity Equivalence Score, derived from the Condition score, Vegetation Extent, and Habitat Importance Score.

A General/Specific Offset test is applied to determine if a General Offset or Specific Offset should be applied. A Specific Offset will compensate for the removal of habitat for rare and threatened flora and fauna.

A Risk Factor of 1.5 is applied to General Offsets (i.e. the offset must have a General Biodiversity Score at least 1.5x higher than the native vegetation removed), whereas a Risk Factor of 2x is applied to Specific Offsets.

Offset sites:


Bioregion, vegetation community and conservation significance are no longer considered.

A General Offset must be located in the same Catchment Management Authority area as the vegetation to be removed.

A Specific Offset has no location restrictions but must comprise likely habitat for each rare or threatened species for which an offset is required.

Transition from the Framework to the Biodiversity Assessment Guidelines

The impending changes will significantly alter the way native vegetation is managed in Victoria, with the Biodiversity Assessment Guidelines expected to be implemented by 27 September 2013. DEPI has released draft transition guidelines which address permit applications that are in varying stages of assessment during the transition from the Framework to the Biodiversity Assessment Guidelines. Any permit application for which approval has not been granted by 27 September will be assessed under the Biodiversity Assessment Guidelines. Any application for which a permit has been granted subject to offsets being provided may source offsets in accordance with either the existing permit or the Biodiversity Assessment Guidelines. Other scenarios will be considered by DEPI on a case-by-case basis.



Changes to Victoria's Native Vegetation Permitted Clearing Regulations *ctd...*

Low Risk Pathway and the EPBC Act

It is important to note that approval to remove native vegetation in accordance with the Permitted Clearing Regulations will not include consideration of Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) protected under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act). Separate approval under the EPBC Act will be required from the Commonwealth Environment Minister where MNES are likely to be impacted.

This is particularly important for Low Risk pathway applications where assessment by an ecologist is not required and potential impacts on MNES may not be identified. Examples of situations where this may occur include grassland areas to the north and west of Melbourne where the EPBC Act-listed Natural Temperate Grassland of the Victorian Volcanic Plain ecological community and Golden Sun Moth frequently occur, and a range of vegetation types to the east and south-east of Melbourne where Southern Brown Bandicoot is often recorded.

With this in mind, it is strongly recommended that landowners seek professional advice relating to the removal of native vegetation and potential habitat for significant flora and fauna species, regardless of the identified Risk Pathway.

EIANZ Merit and Service Awards 2013

Do you know someone who has provided outstanding service to the EIANZ and the environmental profession over the past 12 months?

Nominations are now open for the 2013 EIANZ Merit and Service Awards.

Awards on offer are:

- **Simon Molesworth Award** for outstanding service to EIANZ at Institute level
- **Mary Lou Morris Award** for outstanding service to EIANZ at Divisional level
- **Tor Hundloe Award** for the Young Environmental Practitioner of the Year
- **Certified Environmental Practitioner of the Year Award**
- **EIANZ Student of the Year Award**
- **Excellence in Environmental Practice Award**
(Large Company > 51 employees)
- **Excellence in Environmental Practice Award**
(Small Company < 50 employees)

Download nominations forms at www.eianz.org/conference/eianz-merit-awards

" Proud to be a Member"

Friday evening the 6th September, made me very proud to have been a past President of both the Institute and its SEQ Division. My wife Anna, myself and a group of friends were privileged to attend the **"Renovating Matthew Ball"**.

Matthew Ames is an ex-Origin Gas Environmental practitioner who suffered an horrific infection, which resulted in the amputation of both arms and both legs.

Members of the SEQ Division, encouraged and lead by Jon Womersley and coordinated by Danielle Bolton, organised this very worthy fund raising event. The passion and energy of this group of our members was truly remarkable and resulted in over 550 people attending the Ball and raising some \$25,000. I sincerely wish to thank everyone involved. You made me very proud to be a member.

The Channel 7 show "Sunday Night" was in attendance at the ball for a segment which will go to air this Sunday night 29 September at 8.00pm (check local guides) entitled "Bionic Dad".

Bill Haylock
Immediate Past President



Matthew and Diane Ames



Matthew and Jon Womersley greet guests

Great cause, great night



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Photo by Bec McIntyre

Impacts on Health of Air Quality in Australia - Jon Womersley

We are prone to take the quality of the air that we breathe for granted and yet, like any other environmental value, it can be impacted and degraded by human activities. It is not just 'greenhouse gas' emissions that are important to air quality, though they that have greatest prominence in the public domain. We have become acutely conscious of the environmental values associated with water and the need to minimise impacts on those values. No longer is it acceptable that rivers and streams become the means for dispersing pollutants generated by human activities, and through regulation and investment in good practice environmental management we ensure that such impacts are avoided or mitigated. So too must we become more conscious of the environmental values associated with air and avoid or mitigate impacts on those values.

The Australian Senate Community Affairs References Committee recently released a report on its enquiry into "Impacts on Health of Air Quality in Australia". The report set out 13 recommendations on how improvements can be made to managing environmental values associated with air and thereby protects human health. Some of the recommendations are controversial, involving significant changes to current practices, while others are less controversial.

The report focuses on a limited range of sources of air pollution and impacts on human health, air quality standards and monitoring, specifically issues relating to dust from coal production and transportation, and pollutants contained in the combustion products of diesel fuels and in wood smoke. The majority of evidence received by the Committee concerned the local and immediate consequences of air pollution, and appears to have been dominated by stakeholder interests.

Of particular note, the report supports the implementation of all the recommendations coming out of the National Environmental Protection Council, Ambient Air Quality NEPM Review (Adelaide 2011) and, in particular, the recommended shift from threshold standards to an exposure-reduction based approach.

This will have important consequences for the way in which air quality impacts are avoided, mitigated and monitored, and aligns Australia with the approach adopted by the EU and the US EPA. Environmental practitioners should be looking to the approaches adopted in these communities for exemplars of good practice environmental management.

The report recognises that there is now clear evidence that exposure to the PM2.5 fraction can contribute to negative health outcomes, and supports its inclusion in the NEPM as a compliance standard with both annual and daily values. The Committee recommends that, in addition to the compliance standards for PM10 and PM2.5, work should begin to collect information about the impact of Ultra Fine Particles through the inclusion in the NEPM of an advisory standard for this fraction. Good practice environmental management should already be moving in this direction. Environmental practitioners should be leading the implementation of this approach to the specification of air quality management and monitoring, not waiting for the wheels of government to make it a compliance requirement.

The report discusses the important issue of how data is represented in public reports. Two issues are highlighted by organisations making submissions: the first that compliance standards do not adequately represent the exposure of human populations to airborne contaminants, and the second that standards based on long averaging periods are open to manipulation.

Compliance with a particular standard that uses long time frame averages to show that performance is within a standard yet exposes human populations to the consequences of airborne contaminants in short to medium time frames can potentially mask the real impact of the contaminants and distort environmental assessments. For environmental practitioners, this should be, and for members of the EIANZ and CEnvPs practicing in accordance with the Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct, this is an ethical issue, as well as an issue of good practice environmental management.



Photo by Bec McIntyre

Impacts on Health of Air Quality in Australia *ctd...*

In this online world, it is pleasing to note the Committee's support for the kind of initiative taken by the Queensland Government to place its air quality monitoring data online at <http://www.ehp.qld.gov.au/air/data/search.php>. In the interests of transparency and good practice environmental management, real time monitoring of emission characteristics and the availability to the public of that data online should be a standard condition of environmental approvals. Making data available in real time rather than say, annually through the NPI reporting framework, has the benefit of sharpening the focus of environmental practitioners on the management of performance.

The report contains an extensive discussion of issues related to dust generation from coal mining and its transportation. These are important issues that require careful investigation to determine good practice environmental management. They are not, however, restricted to coal mining, and any consideration of good practice environmental management needs to consider the impact of mining more broadly, as well as quarrying activities, and large scale land development. There is clear evidence that dust generation from these activities has consequences for human health, ranging from the stress and irritation of constant nuisance dust, to the diseases caused by exposure to PM2.5 and UFP fractions and chemical toxicity.

The Committee has rightly pointed to the need for action. In the first instance that action should be a thorough examination of various options for avoiding and mitigating dust generation associated with each of these activities, having regard to the impact of particular dust sources on human health and natural systems. Such an investigation should be conducted in a transparent way as soon as possible. The findings of the investigation should inform the design and operation of these activities, and flow through to the specification of good practice environmental management and environmental regulations.

The discussions in the report on the subject of diesel emissions and wood smoke are less informative about good practice environmental management. They recount a story of a lack of standards and difficulties in the process of their development. If implemented, the recommended development of emission standards for non-road diesel engines and small spark ignition engines will make an important contribution toward avoiding and mitigating emissions from these sources.

The report focuses entirely on wood heaters as a source of wood smoke, and makes no comment about the impact of smoke from controlled burning of vegetation for fuel reduction, yet the latter impacts suburban areas each year by reason of weather and topography. The report should not be taken as a definitive response on these issues. The cane farming industry in Queensland and northern New South Wales met the challenge of green harvesting of cane as good practice environmental management in order to mitigate the consequences of smoke and "black snow" for nearby residents and communities. More work now needs to be done to establish what is good practice environmental management for smoke generated by controlled burning of vegetation for fuel reduction.

"Impacts on Health of Air Quality in Australia" is far from a comprehensive investigation of the subject matter, and will leave many readers disappointed. It does, however, point to some important issues that need investment by government and industry to identify and implement good practice environmental management. The development of the National Plan for Clean Air (NPCA) by the Council of Australian Governments Standing Council on Environment and Water (SCEW) for delivery in 2014 will be an important next step in the development of good practice environmental management approaches to air environmental values.

Jon Womersley
President, SEQ Division



SEQ Division and CEnvP meet with NT Members

On Tuesday 10 September 2013, Nigel Murphy (Chair CEnvP Board), Jon Womersley (SEQ President) and Danielle Bolton (SEQ Secretariat) met with Members from the Northern Territory Division. Nigel gave an update on CEnvP and the STEPS program. Jon and Danielle ran a small exercise to find out what sort of things the members of NT would like to see the Committee working on and what topics they would like to target for Professional Development events.

This soiree was run in conjunction with the Erosion and Sediment control training being held in Darwin.

It was a great afternoon and the data collected will help the NT Division form their strategic plan with the newly elected committee.

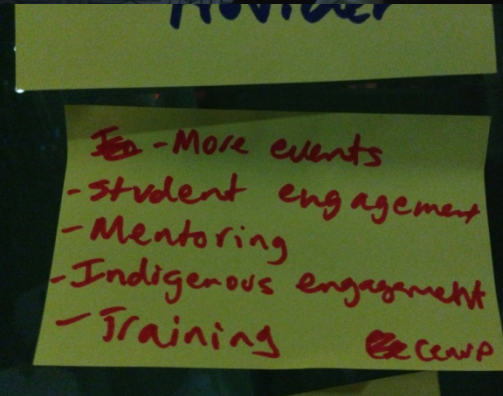
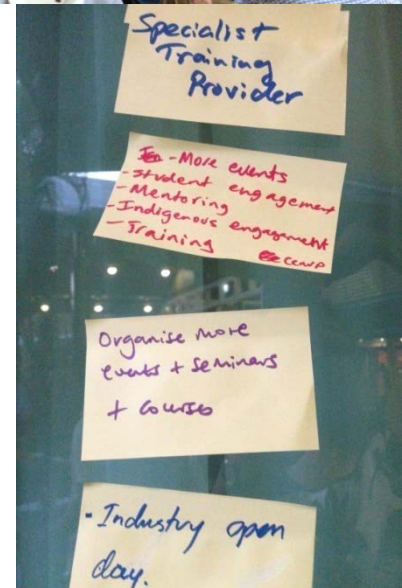




Photo by Greg Ford

Member Snapshot – Rob Law

Quals:

Masters in Tropical Environmental Management (Charles Darwin University).
Bachelor of Science (Geography) University of Tasmania.

What do you do?

I work in environmental policy for the Environment Centre NT, the peak community environment organisation in the Northern Territory. My work is highly varied but a fair chunk of my role involves scrutinizing development proposals through the EIA stages and working with government and members of the community to protect the Northern Territory's unique natural environment in the face of rapid development.

How did you get there?

Previously I worked for three years with the Victorian Government in climate change policy. There I worked in the Land Carbon team to develop a comprehensive account of carbon stocks in Victoria's forests and to develop policy regarding land use and climate change. Prior to that, I worked in the Northern Territory for Charles Darwin University, developing the first carbon resource map of the NT.

Best aspects of your work?

I get to be a generalist and learn lots about many different areas such as mining, renewable energy, natural resource management issues, EIA process, local sustainability issues etc. Most recently I have been working with other organisations on an exciting project looking at the potential to export large-scale renewable energy from Northern Australia to SE Asia.

Biggest environmental concern?

Climate change. It is an all-encompassing issue and working towards solutions provides opportunities to address many other environmental concerns at the same time.

How and why did you get involved with EIANZ?

I wanted to connect with other practitioners around Australia and also realise the many career development and learning opportunities that EIANZ offers.

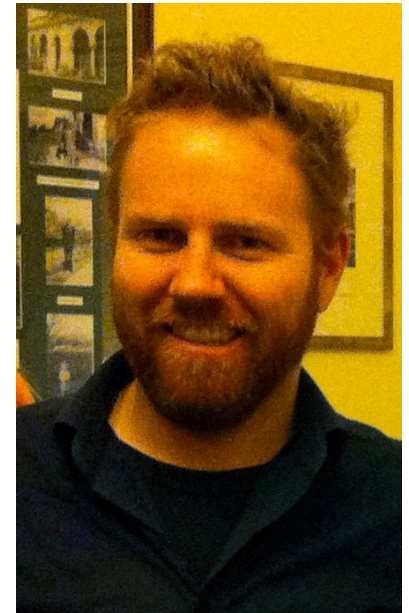




Photo by Greg Ford

Member Snapshot – Janet Xiao

Quals:

Masters of Environment Science and Law at USYD

What do you do?

Environmental Consultant for ISO Pro Consulting Pty Ltd.

How did you get there?

After completing my Bachelor of Environmental Science degree, I applied for a graduate role as an environmental consultant for a firm based in Victoria. The firm was one of the approved suppliers under a Department of Commerce contract to manage water efficiency systems and rainwater tank installations under the Building Education Revolution program. From there, I decided to continue my studies and completed a Masters in Environmental Science and Law, allowing me to better understand environmental legislation and regulations in Australia and, in particular, NSW. Shortly after, I joined ISO Pro Consulting as an environmental consultant. My roles and responsibilities include consultation services, third party auditing and assessments, gap analysis and training provided in the areas of facility management, construction (infrastructure, government, commercial, etc), onsite sewage management, environmental reviews and incident reporting, greenhouse gas reduction, State of the Environment Reporting, and corporate / community sustainability practices.

Biggest environmental concern?

Promotion of environmental awareness in the workplace ranging from top management commitment down to employee participation and applying sustainable practices into day-to-day operations.



Best aspects of your work?

Exposure to many different forms of environmental systems and processes amongst different lines of work and industries. It is great to see the innovative 'green' approaches taken by some companies.

How and why did you get involved with EIANZ?

I had been looking for an environmental association or institution specific to my line of work and one where I could network and communicate ideas with like-minded people and then came across the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand website.



Member Snapshot – *Craig Tucker*

Quals:

Bachelor of Natural Resources, M. Eng, Accredited Green Building Professional, ISO:14001 Lead Auditor.

What do you do? Group Manager Environment at Leighton Contractors.

How did you get there? Early career in local and state government then a super steep learning curve as I joined a huge infrastructure project as a very naïve Environment Manager. Since then I have worked on road, rail, ports, mining, building, and oil/gas projects in a variety of locations, including internationally.

Biggest environmental concern? The persistent although incorrect notion in the industry that environmental best practice and sustainable development bring prohibitive costs.

Best aspects of your work? Great variety of projects and locations as well as exposure to a huge range of industries and the people that work within them. I am very proud to work for Leighton Contractors.

How and why did you get involved with EIANZ? I recognize the professional and ethical standards espoused and endorsed by the EIANZ and want to be part of an Institute that helps deliver these. I also enjoy the technical and professional networking the Institute fosters.



Member Snapshot – *Anthony James*

Quals:

Masters in International and Community Development (Deakin University), Graduate Certificate in Sustainability (Swinburne University), Bachelor of Business Systems (Monash University).

What do you do? I am Head of OASES Graduate School, part of a global network of organisations working in transformative learning for sustainable living. I help us develop our postgraduate programs, short courses, events and community development - all towards developing our understanding and practice of sustainable living.

How did you get there? I was recruited late last year in the wake of years of work with Australia's Inaugural Environmental Educator of the Year, the late Professor Frank Fisher, and the organisation he founded, the Understandascope.

Biggest environmental concern? Our difficulty perceiving the interconnected nature of our environmental (and social) concerns, and the consequent struggle to develop integrated and preventative approaches to those concerns.

Best aspects of your work? Being with inspiring people, being constantly surprised, constantly learning, engaging in practical positive change, and helping others access all of the above.

How and why did you get involved with EIANZ? Initially through friends who are members, and later due to being inspired by the Institute's agenda to 'step up' its efforts towards a more sustainable society.

EIANZ Environmental Management Forum:

Pit to Port



Queensland is booming and, with that, comes the inevitable construction of mass infrastructure: mines, gas fields, pipelines, roads, tunnels, railways and ports. But what are the environmental consequences of this growth? Common flora species may become threatened; fauna may become displaced. Proponents must maintain high standards of operation, lest they affect their social license to operate due to dust, noise, vibration and light. Rural communities, long used to vistas of rolling hills, may now be faced with coal stockpiles. We all rely on the energy that many of these industries provide to us; however, as environmental practitioners, we are also required to ethically and professionally develop and endorse these infrastructure projects.



EIANZ – SEQ is organising a full day session on Environmental Management: from Pit to Port and invites you to join us. This will be a day to reflect on every aspect of the industries in which we work, starting at the very beginning: digging the first hole. This is your opportunity to learn from Senior Environmental Professionals that have gained extensive experience whilst working in this highly diverse State.

Date: Thursday 15 October 2013

Time: 8.45am - 5.00pm, registration from 8.20am,
networking drinks from 5-6pm

Venue: Pullman Brisbane, King George Square,
Cnr Ann and Roma Streets, Brisbane

Cost: \$300 EIANZ Members, \$375 non members, \$100 students

To register: <http://www.eianz.org/eventsplus/event/pit2port>



New Members

Name		Division
Matthew	Eyles	FNQ
Rachel	Reese	FNQ
Ben	Carroll	FNQ
Adam	Heap	FNQ
Ho	Nguyen	NSW
Emma	Hawkins	NSW
Clint	Dedden	NSW
Jim	McDonald	NSW
Suzette	Graham	NSW
Nick	Robertson	NSW
Tahnee	Prestwidge	NSW
Janet	Xiao	NSW
Zoe	Sadiq	NSW
Paul	Simpson	NSW
Crystal	Fleming	NSW
Kathryn	Duchatel	NSW
Amy	Nelson	NSW
Geetha	Ortac	NSW
Shaun	Taylor	NSW
Samantha	Hayes	NSW
Freya	Gordon	NSW
Yoke	Fong	NSW
Rob	Law	NT
Kirsty	McInnes	NT
Alasdair	Mawdsley	NZ
Mohammad Reza	Zarnehabi	NZ
Kelly	Taylor	NZ
Eric	Tweedie	OVERSEAS

Name		Division
Mary-Anne	Siebert	SA
Mark	Harris	SA
Leigh	Gapp	SA
Lisa	Hume	SEQ
Mark	Breitfuss	SEQ
Michele	Deveze	SEQ
Donna	Wruck	SEQ
Rebecca	Enright	SEQ
Christine	Reith	SEQ
Patrice	Brown	SEQ
Dylan	McWhinney	SEQ
Joshua	d'Abadie	SEQ
Jamie	Reilly	SEQ
Nicola	Bridges	SEQ
Lauren	Thorburn	SEQ
Sharon	Gibbons	SEQ
Jessie	Williams	SEQ
Jacinta	Griffin	SEQ
Katherine	Thelander	SEQ
Kathy	Yeo	SEQ
Nirvana	Searle	SEQ
Rebecca	Dowdy	SEQ
Ellie	Thackray	SEQ
Christopher	Johnstone	SEQ
Olivia	McDonald	SEQ
Rachel	Jones	SEQ
Hazel	Duckworth	SEQ
Neil	Page	SEQ
Susan	Scott	SEQ
Lindsay	Wickson	SEQ

Name		Division
Tara	D'Arcy-Evans	SEQ
Bennett	Warren	SEQ
Philip	Corboy	SEQ
Gareth	Rees	SEQ
Margot	Drewe	SEQ
Emily	Scott	SEQ
Karen	Shears	SEQ
Bernice	Ng	SEQ
Cindy	Fenton	SEQ
Lemuel	Cabahug	SEQ
Farzahd	Namdarian	SEQ
Ciame	Calder	SEQ
Katie	Cabrera	SEQ
Jill	Woodworth	TAS
Amanda	Jones	VIC
Grant	Coverdale	VIC
David	Lockwood	VIC
Simone	Stevenson	VIC
Robert	Hewat	VIC
Rosalie	Maxted	VIC
Kathleen	Petras	VIC
Mark	Mackinnon	VIC
Brad	Simmons	VIC
Susan	Regan	WA
Andrew	Del Marco	WA
Thomas	Reilly	WA
Nicolo	Jelovsek	WA
Adam	Buckeridge	WA



Photo by Steve Cupitt (RPS)

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SEQ	David Carberry
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NZ	Johanna Taylor
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SA	Ian Davies
SEQ	Jon Womersley
TAS	Kathryn Pugh
VIC	Martin Juniper
WA	Carel van der Westhuizen

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At Marsh, we understand the Environmental Industry is unique. Marsh has developed a specific tailored Professional Indemnity Facility that recognises and understands the needs of the members of the EIANZ.

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- A streamlined application form
- An effective administration process that promptly deals with enquires, renewals and claims through a experienced team
- A facility which is able to provide cover to the majority of EIANZ Members.
- Premium Funding is available, enabling monthly instalments (conditions apply)

Our privacy statement can be obtained from our website at www.marsh.com.au

If you would like to receive a quote through the Professional Indemnity Facility or for further information call:
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Marsh Pty Ltd | GPO Box 1229, Melbourne Vic 3001

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protection has
never been more
important

