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This Month

This month we focus on what has been in the news, upcoming branch events and professional development opportunities and let you know what has come off the printing press.

Calling on Ecologists: Ecology Special Interest Section Rebuild!

By Dr Judith Roper-Lindsay

Dave Fleming (Brisbane) has recently been appointed as Chair of the EIANZ's Ecology Special Interests Section (SIS). The Ecology SIS provides a forum for EIANZ members to communicate with other ecologists in similar fields, initially through an Ecology SIS LinkedIn group. Although the Ecology SIS was launched several years ago, interest and participation in the group has declined and Dave is now rebuilding the group. In the next few months, members will prepare a Business Plan for the group, and later in the year the group hopes to develop EcIA Guidelines for use in Australia, based on the just-published New Zealand document. Other New Zealand topics that could be covered are biodiversity offsets, proposed RMA changes, good practice notes, or use of new technologies for field work.

If you are interested in the Ecology SIS, please contact Dave Fleming dfleming@ehpartners.com.au OR

If you are registered, visit the Ecology SIS LinkedIn page:
<https://www.linkedin.com/groups?home=&gid=6960631>

Ecological Impact Assessment - EIANZ Guidelines for use in New Zealand: terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems

By Dr Judith Roper-Lindsay

The guidelines are out and are [available free to all ecologists as a pdf here](#).

The New Zealand Chapter is seeking comment and feedback from those using the guidelines by email to: newzealand@eianz.org

In the News

So in case you missed it, here are some snippets of environmental news since the last newsletter.

Politics and Planning

[Govt to 'rip up' RMA plans](#)

[Editorial: RMA looks likely to stay largely intact](#)

[RMA too important not to consult on](#)

[Kapiti could be left on its own in Wellington super-city split](#)

[Fish and Game urges open debate on RMA](#)

[ECan changes would create 'worrying precedent'](#)

[Transport management "fragmented" says report](#)

[Too much red tape in planning rules, ministers say – \[Chch\]](#)

[Senior Treasury official to head Environment Ministry](#)

[Perth s road obsession weird](#)

Conservation/Ecology

[Rare crabeater seal found dead – \[Wgtn\]](#)

[Yellow-eyed penguins having a tough year](#)

[Baby \(seal\) sitters wanted for Ohau Point – \[Kaikoura\]](#)

[Tuatara nest has scientists shellshocked](#)

[Government steps in over island nature haven](#)

[Bizarre visitor from deep washes up](#)

[Bird buildup worries Christchurch airport](#)

[Hunua Ranges kokako suffer setback](#)

[DOC find native plants thought to be extinct](#)

[Otago declares war on Canterbury wallabies](#)

Water

[Ruling on water quality a 'landmark decision'](#)

[Maori in freshwater bid](#)

[Tougher water rules needed, says scientist](#)

Human Health

[Dirt, arsenic and lead polluting air in industrial Christchurch](#)

[Living Earth compost plant causes stink](#)

Consent Hearings/Developments

[Explosives storage plan 'affects everyone' - \[Christchurch\]](#)

[Capital commuters face slower journey if Takapu Valley link road is built](#)

[Economists question business case for \\$156m Christchurch cycleway spending](#)

[\\$11m cycleway will send riders soaring](#)

[\\$10b of projects reveal a new-look Auckland City](#)

Climate Change

[US makes climate pledge to UN](#)

[Climate change: Kiwis will need to uproot](#)

[NZ greenhouse gas levels ease but remain well above 2020 target levels](#)

[Waitara residents worry their home could be washed away](#)

[Scientists warn of '1-in-10 chance' world will be 6C hotter by 2100](#)

General

[Alpine Fault earthquake could isolate West Coast for six weeks](#)

[Adidas to use marine plastic waste in products from 2016](#)

Professional Development Opportunities

The following Professional Development Opportunities are available and as always, all EIANZ events are available on the calendar of our home page <http://www.eianz.org/>

EIANZ Annual Conference - Challenging the status quo

29th – 30th October 2015, Perth

The call of papers is now open;

Click here to access the [call for papers brochure](#)

Click here to access the [abstract specification template](#)

Important Dates

Abstract Submissions open - Monday 20 April 2015

Abstract Submissions close - Friday 13 July 2015

Notification of Acceptance - Friday 31 July

Deadline for full papers/presentations - Friday 25 September 2015



Challenging the status quo

Excellence in environmental practice

EIANZ Annual Conference 29–30 October 2015

Pan Pacific Hotel, 207 Adelaide Terrace, Perth, WA

We make advances in environmental management by challenging the status quo through new science and good practice. The pressure is on environmental practitioners to:

- Conserve and manage the world's biodiversity hotspots, threatened species, and marine and terrestrial protected areas
- Find new ways to assure ecological health, and sustainable productivity of terrestrial and marine environments
- Implement innovations in the repair of landscapes affected by poor agricultural, grazing and mining practices
- Understand the role of indigenous knowledge and cultures in determining good practice
- Develop knowledge of regulatory requirements and skills in the ethical and professional implementation of good practice environmental management

Reserve the dates now – plan to present a paper or poster that challenges the status quo in environmental management practice. Demonstrate to others the advances you know will lead to better practice. Join a field trip before and after the event to see the application of good practice environmental management first hand.

There is much to learn about the skilled practice of environmental management in Western Australia. Mega scale offshore gas and mining projects have helped shape environmental management in remote and arid Australia. Cutting edge dryland farming and water management practices have been developed to combat salinity and erosion. The biogeographic region of Southwest Australia, stretching from Shark Bay in the north to Israelite Bay in the south, is recognised as an international biodiversity hotspot. These are but a few of the reasons why Western Australia is an exciting place to hold the 2015 EIANZ Conference.



Environment Institute of
Australia and New Zealand Inc.



This event will count towards
your Certified Environmental
Practitioner CPD Log.

WILD THINGS: addressing terrestrial, freshwater and marine biodiversity

11-13 August 2015, Viaduct Events Centre, Auckland



Image courtesy of photonewzealand.

Mark your diaries now! Don't miss New Zealand's leading environmental conference.

Biodiversity loss is the greatest environmental challenge that currently faces New Zealand. Despite our best endeavours, the country's wealth of endemic species is dwindling away. Under the current trajectory, kiwi will be functionally extinct on the mainland within two generations. In addition to losses on land, we are also facing threats in both the freshwater and marine realms.

Biodiversity loss is an economic challenge, with New Zealand's natural heritage forming the basis of a burgeoning tourism sector and supporting many of our export industries.

Wild Things will investigate the underlying reasons for biodiversity decline and look constructively at how we might turn it around. The conference will examine how to rebalance the conservation management system, so that it is well funded and better aligned, and can more effectively harness innovation. We will focus on the nexus of biodiversity and development, and how new or improved tools like offsetting might be applied to achieve 'no net loss' or even 'net gain'. We will also look ways to mobilise New Zealanders behind the biodiversity challenge and to overcome the implementation gap.

Wild Things will be a national conversation, amongst all sectors, about the way forward on biodiversity. It will be particularly relevant to agencies involved in biodiversity management (including central government, regional councils and local authorities); iwi/hapū exercising kaitiakitanga over biodiversity; biodiversity-relevant private sector industries (tourism, land development, agriculture, forestry and fishing); biodiversity scientists and resource management professionals; and community groups and individuals involved in biodiversity conservation on the ground.

Biodiversity loss is not inevitable. We have a choice.

Canterbury Branch Event

Canterbury Green Drinks

Looking forward to seeing you on **Wednesday 6th May, from 5-30pm @ Bean Scene Café and Cargo Bar, Lincoln Road, Addington** (Cargo Bar is open for drinks and food prior to this, for early birds). These are casual gatherings put on by the Institute to give you a way to meet people in the industry and catch up with colleagues.

All members are welcome. Please feel free to bring friends and colleagues and pass this email around. No charge.

Our Invited Speaker will be: **Dr. Michael Shone, Lecturer in Tourism and Recreation, Lincoln University.**

Topic – **Challenges for New Zealand in Sustainable Tourism- lessons from Akaroa**

The format is very casual – speakers only talk for 15 minutes or so, do not use slides or notes. It is more of a chat to get a good discussion going over a beer or soda.

The Canterbury Branch of the NZ Chapter of EIANZ hopes to see more of you at these Wednesday gatherings and at CPD events held during the coming year. If you have any questions, comments, or have a great idea for a future topic, get in touch with your local branch by [email](#).

If anyone went to the Wellington symposium, we'd love to hear about it.

Other Events in the Garden City

The Avon Heathcote Estuary Ihutai Trust 'Great Heathcote /Opawaho Autumn Rubbish Clean-up' Saturday, 9 May from 2 till 4pm

Inaugural annual event encouraging Heathcote river interest groups to 'adopt' a stretch of the river and for 1 afternoon every year collect litter. One afternoon of picking up litter will not clean the river but the aims of this event are to raise the awareness of the litter issue, involve communities and for like-minded river care groups to work together.

Groups already committed this year;

1. Forest and Bird North Canterbury Branch; Mouth of the river till Lyttelton roundabout. Meet at the carpark at the Ferrymead end of the track through to Calder Green Reserve.
2. Estuary Trust ; Lyttelton roundabout to Radley street Bridge. Meet at the river end of Gould Crescent.
3. Roimata Group; Radley Street Bridge to Opawa Street Bridge. Meet at corner of Ferry Road and Richardson Tce.
4. The Tannery (Cassels Family) 500 mtrs either direction from the Tannery. Meet at the river in front of the Tannery.

We finish at 4 pm and then between 4 and 4.30pm gather at the Cassels Brewery (at the Tannery) to collate collected rubbish results, do some social networking with other participant groups, and get some media attention to reinforce the message about the need for our river to be cleaner and cared for. The Cassels family will provide free sausage sizzle at this gathering point. We are looking for other groups to take on their chosen stretch of the river.

Contact Tanya Jenkins (Estuary Trust Coordinator) on 027 2245627 or email; info@estuary.org.nz

Bike the Heathcote River: From the Source to the Sea - Sunday 17 May 2015

Cyclists may wish to do the whole ride or start at one of the points below:

First leg: 10.30am – Spreydon Domain, Hillmorton off Domain Terrace in between Lincoln and Hoon Hay Road. Meet on the bridge over the Heathcote River.

Second leg: 12.00 Pioneer Stadium Cafe - to proceed along beside the river to Hansen Park

Third leg: 1.00 Hansen Park -Bring a picnic lunch for the park.

Fourth leg: After lunch about 1.30 bike along Clarendon and follow the path by river all the way to Ferrymead. Should take about an hour. Those who wish may then ride back to the Tannery for a beer/coffee at about 3pm.

For further info contact Edward Snowden 389 4741 or 3849768 nodwons@snap.net.nz or Mary Cavanagh - 3370833 or 0220759252 cavanagghamilton@clear.net.nz

Auckland Branch Event

The Auckland EIANZ branch is kicking off regular networking events starting on 7th of May. These casual gatherings are aimed at giving you a way to meet people in the industry and catch up with colleagues. From time to time we may also invite guest speakers so if you have a great idea for a future speaker, get in touch with your local branch.

The details are as follows:

Thursday 7th May, from **530pm**, The Auckland EIANZ branch will host our first networking event at **The Conservatory Bar, Jellicoe Street, Wynyard Quarter**

All members are welcome! Please feel free to bring friends and colleagues and pass this email around. No charge.

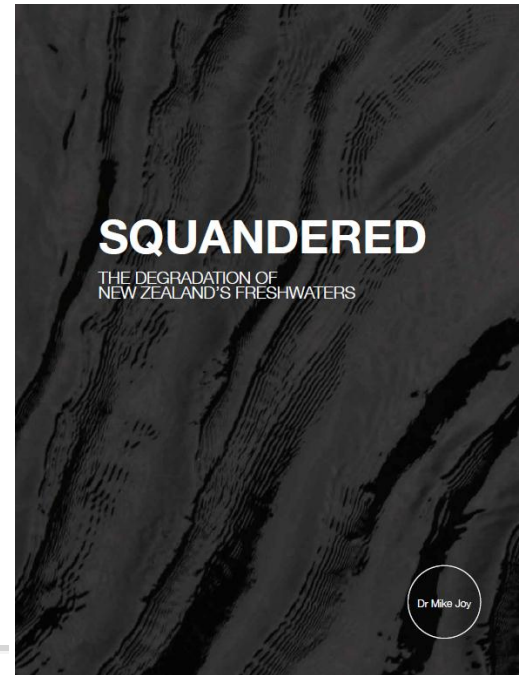
If you have any questions, get in touch with your local branch by [email](#).

The Printing Press: Squandered

The degradation of New Zealand's Freshwaters

Dr Mike Joy has released this e-book "...to try and show how in the last few decades' environmental protection was deregulated, allowing a few to profit by polluting on a massive scale and how that has led to the destruction we see today. I want to show also how this reality is denied and covered-up so that relatively few are aware of the full extent of the damage."

Download this must read today from <http://waterqualitynz.info/>



Public lecture: The state of air quality in New Zealand

Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment, Dr Jan Wright, talks about air quality in New Zealand to a public audience at Lincoln University. This event took place on the evening of the 12th of March 2015, shortly after the release of the Commissioner's Commentary on the 2014 Air Domain Report.

Watch her talk at <https://youtu.be/WKUNAey3mAQ>

And read the report at <http://www.pce.parliament.nz/publications/all-publications/the-state-of-air-quality-in-new-zealand>

The Printing Press: Reviewing stewardship land – 'pick up the pace' says Commissioner

Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment, Dr Jan Wright, has called for the Department of Conservation to pick up the pace in reviewing stewardship land.

Dr Wright released an update to her 2013 report *Investigating the future of conservation: The case of stewardship land*. About one third of the conservation estate is categorised as 'stewardship land'.

The Commissioner said she was pleased that the Minister of Conservation has accepted her recommendations regarding stewardship land and has moved to implement them.

"Compared with other categories of conservation land, the legal protection of stewardship land is weak. This quite naturally signals to the private sector that it is 'open for business'", said Dr Wright.

"But much of it will have high conservation value and should be reclassified accordingly. Other areas will have little or no conservation value and should be considered for exchange or disposal."

Dr Wright has welcomed the initial steps being taken by the Department of Conservation in response to her report. A number of areas have already been identified for review including the Mokihinui area in the Buller District, the St James-Poplars area in North Canterbury, and the Te Wahipounamu World Heritage Area.

“However, the review strategy, including criteria and timelines, should be put on the Department’s website so it is clear and accessible to the public.”

Areas of stewardship land can be swapped for areas of private land. In the update report, the Commissioner reiterated the need to ensure such land swaps benefit conservation. She said that further work is required before the public can have confidence in land swap decisions.

The [update report can be found here](#). The [2013 report is available here](#).

The Printing Press: Topics for 2015 environmental report released

Secretary for the Environment Dr Paul Reynolds and Government Statistician Liz MacPherson announced the topics that will be the focus of the Environment Aotearoa 2015 and Environmental indicators Te taiao Aotearoa reports.

The national environment reports are being compiled by the Ministry for the Environment and Statistics New Zealand, and will be released in the middle of this year.

The broad range of topics include river quality, native plants and animals, ocean acidity, and impacts on human health.

Dr Reynolds said the report was the start of a journey to give New Zealanders a comprehensive overview of the environment. “The reports will contain high-quality data on five key environmental domains – air, climate and atmosphere, land, fresh water, and marine,” he said. “They will assess the environmental health of each domain with data from key topics.”

The Ministry for the Environment and Statistics NZ spent months assessing existing data available from a list of potential topics to include in the reports. Experts from many sectors provided advice. The Ministers of Statistics and the Environment approved the topics, but the public will be consulted about topics for future reports.

Ms MacPherson said the assessment used Statistics NZ’s rigorous criteria. “This means New Zealanders can have confidence in the information we will publish about why, where, and how New Zealand’s environment is changing, as well as what impact this is having on our lifestyle, standard of living, and well-being.”

Data to measure the topics come from existing datasets so councils and ratepayers will not face additional costs. For some topics, data of sufficient quality are not yet available. The list of measures, or statistics released today are provisional at this stage as the assessment process has not been completed and the full set of national indicators, case studies, and supplementary information has not been signed off by the Government Statistician.

Central and local government are working together to improve the representativeness, consistency, and quality of future environmental data and reporting.

Dr Reynolds said Environment Aotearoa 2015 and Environmental indicators Te taiao Aotearoa were developed in parallel with legislation to make future environmental reporting more regular, more independent, and more useful. The Environmental Reporting Bill is before Parliament and is expected to be passed in the next couple of months.

“Once the legislation is passed, the Government will consult with the public on which environmental topics will be reported on under each domain,” he said.

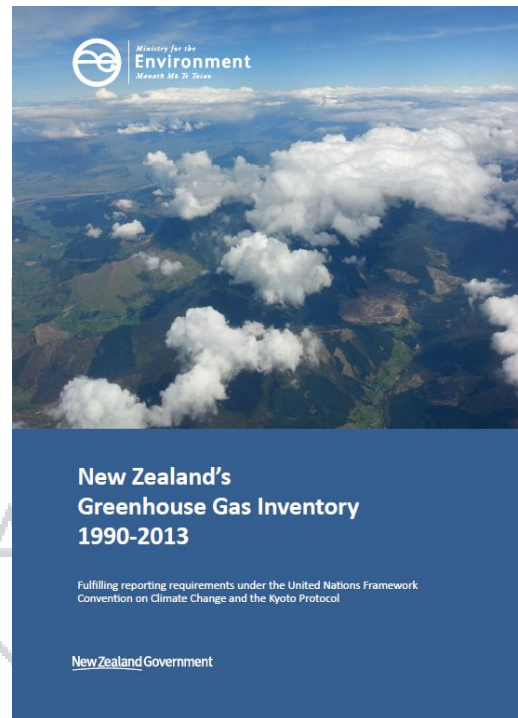
[New Zealand's Environmental Reporting Series: 2015 topics and provisional statistics](#)

The Printing Press: Greenhouse Gas Inventory Report released

Minister for Climate Change Issues Tim Groser welcomes the release of the latest Greenhouse Gas Inventory report by the Ministry for the Environment. The report covers the period since 1990 and provides details about emissions and removals for the 2013 year.

In 2013 New Zealand's total gross greenhouse gas emissions were 81 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent, a decrease of 1.4 per cent over the previous year.

Get your copy from <http://www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/climate-change/new-zealands-greenhouse-gas-inventory-1990%E2%80%932013>



Certified Environmental Practitioner

For those thinking of applying

The CEnvP website provides some useful application tips and advice – these are the things that will help with the processing of your application. See <http://www.cenvp.org/apply/applications.php>

One of the bits of advice is to take the requirement for continuing professional development seriously. This is probably one of the areas where the more information you can provide as part of your application the better. The CEnvP website says it is worthwhile to submit a CPD log for the past year. I'd go a step further to say submit the log, along with an outline of your proposed CPD activities for the forthcoming 12 months. If you don't submit it as part of your application, you are likely to be asked to bring it along to your interview.

Another important tip is to submit a complete application. Missing information slows down the processing of your application and in the worst case; you will be deferred to the following round of interviews.

If your workplace or local EIANZ branch would like to learn more about the application process or the Scheme, please get in touch. There are a number of CEnvPs around the country who are more than happy to come and talk to you about the benefits of Certification and the process of applying.

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

New Zealand: 03 741 3102 Email: info@cenvp.org

Call for Articles and Ideas

We will be putting out this newsletter quarterly and need interesting and informative articles every time!

Have you...

- Finished an interesting project?
- Attended a training course you found valuable?
- Have some photos that you just have to share?
- Got some ideas for other things you would like to see in this newsletter?

If so, we would love to add your two cents to the newsletter.

If you would like to share, please do send any suggestions, articles, photos to [Craig Redmond](mailto:Craig.Redmond@eianz.org). The next newsletter will be out at the end of April, so please send any submissions through by 23 May 2015.

Have your details changed?

It is important for us to keep your details up to date. If you have recently moved house or job, changed your phone number or email address please let us know by sending an email to newzealand@eianz.org to ensure that your details are up to date.

Key Institute and Chapter Information

NZ Chapter Executive Committee

NZ Chapter President: [Ian Boothroyd](#)

NZ Chapter Vice President: [Joh Taylor](#)

EIANZ Board Vice President (NZ): [Di Buchan](#)

Secretary: [Taryn Pearce](#)

Treasurer: [Chris Bailey](#)

Regional Branch Coordinators

Auckland: [Kathryn McDonald](#)

Bay of Plenty: [Sharon De Luca](#)

Wellington / Central: [Leonie Waayer](#)

Canterbury: [Pene Ferguson](#)

Contact for general enquiries: newzealand@eianz.org

EIANZ Website: www.eianz.org

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

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

Watch us at: www.youtube.com/nzeianz

Follow us at: www.twitter.com/nzeianz

Committee Members:

[Stacey Swanson](#) (Students and Early Careers Portfolio)

[Steph Brown](#) (CEnvP) Coordinator

[Geoff Meadows](#)

Other Key Roles

Membership Secretary: [Eric Scott](#)

Newsletter Editor: [Craig Redmond](#)

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