



THE ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTITIONER

ISSN 1834-7738

No. 11

September 2008

COMING TO THE RESCUE!

ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTICE IN THE 21ST CENTURY 2008 ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE ENVIRONMENT INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

Early Bird Registrations extended to 30 September !!

The EIANZ annual conference is being held on Thursday and Friday 30 and 31 October this year in Melbourne at the Langham Hotel in 'hip and happening' Southbank. This year's conference will comprise a Professional Development day on Day 1 and a full Plenary Conference on Day 2. The focus of the conference will be the four key issues surrounding us today – Sustainability, Climate Change, Water and Biodiversity.

The Institute is currently working with Arup to make the 2008 Conference a sustainably managed event. The Institute is aiming to actively minimise its impact on the environment through the implementation and application of BS 8091 Sustainable Event Management standard, of which Arup were a key author.

The framework outlined in the BS 8091 standard has assisted in identifying key sustainability issues in relation to the Conference and setting a number of objectives and targets around these. For the first year in implementing the Sustainable Event Management standard, the Institute is seeking to focus on a number of key areas, including climate change, water use, solid waste management and supply chain management. We are also working with key stakeholders, including our venue – The Langham, Melbourne – to assist us with achieving our sustainability goals.

Information about the workshop topics and the leading environmental authorities who will be presenting at the Plenary Conference is provided on page 5 of this newsletter, and on the EIANZ website.

This year's conference promises to be the best yet. Registrations are now open and, due to a glitch in the advertising of the conference, early bird registrations have been extended to 30 September.

Enquiries regarding the conference should be forwarded to Anne Young at office@eianz.org.

In this issue

Editorial: The beauty of simplicity	2
From the President's desk	3
Letters to the Editor	4
Divisional news	4
Coming to the Rescue (conference)	5
Gala Dinner and Merit Award presentation	5
New members	7
Annual General Meeting - Advance notice	8

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.

EIANZ Benefactors



Editorial

THE BEAUTY OF SIMPLICITY

Dr Edward de Bono, who rose to prominence many years ago with his book, *Lateral Thinking*, is described as being the leading thinker about thinking. Among his approximately fifty books on the topic is one with the simple title, *Simplicity*. In this book he bemoans the unnecessary complexities of modern living, exemplified by the fact that only ten percent of people at the time of writing used more than ten percent of the features on their video-recorder because they were too complicated. He suggests (perhaps a little tongue-in-cheek) that every country should have an Institute of Simplicity to pass judgement on complexity, and devotes the majority of the book to more pragmatic issues where society would benefit from a simpler approach to life. Unfortunately, the real world trend is very much in the other direction.



It seems ironic that, in a profession where great emphasis is placed on the evaluation of impacts, the consideration of alternatives, and effective consultation, such practices are often not considered when new legal and administrative processes are introduced. The lack of input from those who are most involved at the real-world level is a major reason

many new processes are leading to increased costs, delays and public criticism associated with environmental assessment.

When it comes to addressing environmental issues, whether at the strategic level or for specific projects, there is usually a small number of issues (say between two and six) which are really important in terms of influencing a particular decision. (Most decision-makers can't cope with more than that number, anyway). One of the major weaknesses in environmental planning and assessment in Australia is the lack of effectiveness scoping, which is important in identifying the key issues and ensuring that professional resources are allocated accordingly. Instead, the appropriate allocation of resources tends to be biased according to the complexity of different elements of the ecobureaucratic system.

I feel that the expression 'Small is beautiful' has a parallel in the words 'Simple is beautiful'. De Bono would no doubt support this view, which probably accords with at least the unconscious views of a large proportion of society. Those who are most influential in modern society, however, whether through government or the marketplace, seem to have other ideas.

In a letter on page 4, Eric Anderson recalls some ambitious aspects of the Commonwealth *Environment Protection (Impact of Proposals) Act 1974*, a relatively simple piece of legislation with great potential. Having grown up professionally with that legislation, I found it to be effective, logical and easy to work with, at least in the hands of competent professionals. I cannot say the same for the Commonwealth *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act* or the various pieces of ACT or New South Wales environmental legislation with which I have had to contend over the past couple of decades.

My firm recently undertook an ecological assessment for a very minor development for which the ecobureaucratic processes demanded assessments using no less than six different approaches, all leading to the same conclusion that would be self-evident to any competent practitioner. While the conclusions were simple, the processes were unnecessarily complex and did not lead to a better environmental outcome. This would be a prime target for an Institute of Simplicity to address, if only we had one.

It is this factor, rather than the objective of necessarily achieving the best practicable environmental outcome, that tends to determine the approach applied by many environmental practitioners. It is my observation over many years that this profession is not well endowed with original and courageous thinkers. Without such people, the profession cannot be expected to advance to its full potential. If only Edward de Bono had been an environmental practitioner ...!

David Hogg
Editor

Do you feel that you have some exciting and innovative ideas that could help you to move the environmental profession forward and make it more effective? If so, send them to *The Environmental Practitioner* as a letter or full-length article (up to 1300 words).

See page 8 for further details and contact addresses.



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

The title of the upcoming annual Conference in Melbourne is *Coming to the Rescue - Environmental Practice in the 21st Century*. I feel that is an excellent title, and one with numerous meanings and interpretations.

Coming to the rescue - Rapid changes in environmental legislation and readily available information on global environmental issues seem to dominate current issues pertaining to the environment. From global warming to carbon credits, from land clearing to contamination - the new breed of environmentalists are the saviours of our modern day.

Everyone is part of the environmental industry whether you are a polluter, supplier, regulator or solutions provider. There are two ways to participate in this roller coaster ride of the modern challenges - either being reactive and following regulators and what others are doing, or by being proactive and preparing for what is ahead. If you want to be prepared and exploit what lies ahead then you won't want to miss our Annual Conference.

It highlights the fact that we are a young profession, which is coming of age and preparing itself to lead the way in dealing with the mounting environmental challenges of the not too distant future.

Day One of the conference is an exciting professional development program aimed at practitioners and knowledge hungry environmentalists with many introductory/ early career programs. It also provides continuing development for the older professional.

Day Two presents a dozen highly acclaimed speakers addressing four environmental priorities - Climate Change, Water, Sustainability and Biodiversity. Some of these speakers are international, whilst others have been named in the top ten environment leaders. I look forward to hearing their motivational words, and expect to gain further insight into likely trends and challenges of the future.

The Conference then concludes with the annual Gala Dinner and Merit Award presentations. This event will allow you to rub shoulders and network with the leaders of the Australian environmental industry. Don't miss also Australia's greatest surf life saver, Trevor Hendy (MC), and former Olympic great, Shane Gould (currently studying for an environment degree in Tasmania) at the dinner.



Coming to the rescue is synonymous with surf lifesaving. There are clearly many parallels between the surf lifesaving traditions that have served us so well for countless decades, and the evolving environmental sector which will also be serving society in the crucial decades ahead. There are many areas of common ground (or common ocean), including the fact that both communities will need to adapt rapidly to dealing with the unexpected consequences of climate change and sea level rise.

The Institute is essentially a volunteer organisation attempting to deliver a continuous improvement in environmental practice. Some of our members are making enormous contributions to the Institute, and hence to professional practice. The Institute has an Executive, Council, NZ Chapter committee and State Divisional committees. We also have a number of Standing committees, Working Groups, Special Interest Sections (SIS) and a Melbourne Conference committee. All of these committees are run and administrated by volunteers from the membership.

If we are to really *Come to the Rescue* then we need to recognise that the Institute is helping to develop standards of practice that will help ensure good environmental outcomes. And whilst the Institute is a professional body, at the end of the day it will be you and your colleagues who exploit the outcomes by attending.

Whether you attend, encourage a colleague to join the Institute, or purchase a table at the Gala Dinner, the conference organising committee is always open to innovative and useful suggestions. So if you feel there is some other way that you can contribute to making the forthcoming conference a success, then please feel free to pick up the phone or send an email.

Bill Haylock
President



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear David

Having been away from Canberra for a while, I have only just read – with considerable interest – your ‘Reflections on IAIA08’ in the June Environmental Practitioner. I was sufficiently struck by your comments on SEA as well as your impression that Australia cannot regard itself as a world leader in EIA, to put down a few remarks of my own.

As an ‘old hand’ EIA practitioner, albeit one who has not been involved with environment assessment for some years now, I have no reason to doubt your first hand impressions; only to feel somewhat saddened by what would appear to be a decline in Australia’s position in EIA. You will no doubt recall that the 1974 Impact of Proposals Act followed closely the groundbreaking US NEPA of 1970 and was one of the early and pioneering pieces of EIA legislation in the world. Its authors fully intended that it should be go beyond project evaluation and encompass policy assessment – the then Environment Minister Moss Cass’s first reading speech made that step abundantly clear. That intention was however never realised, largely due to a combination of factors – lack of political will, the effort required to keep basic project assessment alive in what was a hostile political climate, alarm expressed by powerful policy proponents that their actions might be assessed and, it must be admitted, considerable doubt on the part of the administrators of how to tackle the task. Despite these negatives, I nevertheless recall that the Australian Conservation Foundation would, at least once a year, write formally to the Federal Environment Minister asking (under Section 10 of the Impact Act) when an assessment of Australia’s immigration policy would be undertaken. The reaction of one Immigration Minister to this notion bordered on the apopleptic.

If federal SEA was still-born, project assessment moved along steadily – not infrequently as a consequence of the absence of suitable State procedures and the ready application of ‘interventionist’ Commonwealth powers – foreign investment and export licensing. During this time, Commonwealth (and some State) EIA stacked up well against many overseas processes. It was nowhere near as

complex as US practice; unlike EIA in Canada, it had the force of legislation; it was not subsumed into land use planning as in the UK. It was perhaps indicative of its then stature that the West German government sought Australian participation in 1987 when a group of experts were convened to provide advice on a future EIA regime for the Federal Republic.

What then has happened in the interim? You suggest that SEA has failed to move along in Australia and I would be hard pressed to disagree. A (State) colleague once remarked to me that the rule with SEA is to proceed surreptitiously, call it something else, but never admit that what you are doing is SEA – it frightens the horses! Perhaps in a climate change conscious world, the time for strategic evaluations of key policies such as transportation, urban growth and energy provision has at last arrived. You also mention the absence of any discussion on cumulative assessments – an item of EIA long cited as important but rarely implemented in practice. To that I would add one other (although I may be out of date here) – post-assessment monitoring and evaluation. Once again, these are items frequently on the EIA process agenda but all too often dismissed as being too time consuming, expensive and ‘who needs them now the decision has been taken’. Similarly, I recall the introduction of Environmental Management Planning as a logical follow-up to EIA being hailed as a mechanism whereby the environmental outcomes hoped for in the EIA process could be brought to fruition. Has this all disappeared by the wayside?

Back in the early days of the Australian Journal of Environmental Management (AJEM), a special issue on *EIA, Trends and Issues* was published in June 1995. Looking over some of the material therein, I have been struck by how many of the themes identified by the authors 13 years ago as being necessary for the continuing health of EIA seem to have languished. Perhaps in the light of the IAIA Conference and your reflections Helen Ross and her colleagues might be persuaded to revisit the site as one step towards helping to re-vitalize Australian EIA.

Eric Anderson

DIVISIONAL NEWS

ACT

At the Annual General Meeting of the ACT Division of the EIANZ held on 27 August 2008, a new Committee was elected consisting of the following members:

President: Dugal McFarlane
Vice-President: Lachlan Wilkinson
Secretary: Andrew Chalklen
Treasurer: Mark O’Brien
Members: Lisa Bambic, Madeleine Fletcher, Sharon Lane, Margaret Nicholson.

Stefanie Pidcock continues as the ACT Division’s Divisional Councillor on the EIANZ National Council and is *ex officio* also on the ACT Division Committee.

The meeting thanked the outgoing President, Richard Sharp, for many years service on the Committee. Although he has stepped down from the Committee, Richard continues to be involved in EIANZ activities, including the Certified Environmental Practitioner program.





Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand

Annual Conference

Thursday 30th and Friday 31st October 2008

Langham Hotel, Melbourne

coming to the
Rescue

Environmental Practice
in the 21st Century

Professional Development sessions including Certification, Environmental Law, the EPBC Act, Environmental Ethics, Environmental Management Plans, Climate Change Skills Training, Ecology in Practice, Introduction to Erosion and Sediment Control, Risk Management and more. Your participation at these sessions will count as points towards your CEnvP or other Continuing Professional Development (CPD) requirements.

Day two of the conference discusses four key environmental issues facing us today –

Climate Change – Sustainability – Water – and – Biodiversity

Come and experience leaders in these fields presenting at the conference: Prof. Peter Matthews OBE, joint founder of Society for the Environment UK, Prof John Zillman, noted Meteorologist, Mark Pizey, New Zealand Ecology Specialist, Cheryl Batagol, Chairman Melbourne Water, The Hon Gavin Jennings, Victorian Minister for the Environment, Andrew Stock, Executive General Manager, Origin Energy and many more!

Three experts will present on each topic. The morning sessions on Climate Change and Sustainability and the afternoon sessions on Water and Biodiversity will be followed by a six member panel discussions to be facilitated by noted environmentalist Rob Gell.

The Conference will be followed by the Institute's Annual Gala Dinner and Merit Award Presentation. We are proud to announce that the evening will be hosted by six time Australian Champion four time World Champion Ironman Trevor Hendy with a key note address by Olympic legend, passionate environmentalist and environmental science undergraduate Shane Gould.

Further information can be obtained from the Institute Central Office at office@eianz.org or 03 9654 7473.



Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand

Gala Dinner and Merit Award Presentation

Friday 31st October 2008, Ballroom, Langham Melbourne

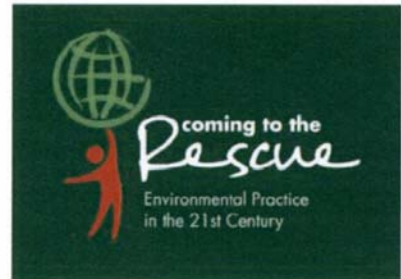
In keeping with the theme of 'Coming to the Rescue' we are pleased to announce that six times Australian Champion and four time World Champion Ironman, Trevor Hendy will host our Gala Event this year.

For the second year the Institute will confer five Merit and Service Awards:

- The Simon Molesworth Award for Outstanding Service to the Environment Profession at Institute Level - 2008
- The Mary Lou Morris Award for Outstanding Service to the Environment Profession at a Divisional Level - 2008
- The Tor Hundloe Award for Young Environmental Professional – 2008 (proudly sponsored by Aargus Pty Ltd)
- Certified Environmental Practitioner of the Year Award – 2008
- Outstanding Article in the Australasian Journal of Environmental Management – 2008
- Nominations are now open. Nomination forms can be found on our website at www.eianz.org and go to Merit Awards

The awards will be followed by the key note address. Following on the goodwill of the recent Beijing Olympics, we are excited and proud to announce that Olympic Legend Shane Gould will deliver this year's key note address. Aside from being an outstanding sporting ambassador for Australia, Shane is a very talented photographer, surf life saver, passionate environmentalist and environmental science undergraduate.

Further information on the 2008 Gala Dinner can be obtained from the Institute Central Office at office@eianz.org or 03 9654 7473.



Professional Indemnity for Environmental Consultants



Can you afford not to get a quote from the EIANZ Professional Indemnity Facility?

In your role, as an environment professional, the need for insurance protection has never been more important.

Marsh and the EIANZ understand your industry needs and have tailored an insurance program to protect you.

Marsh, in consultation with EIANZ, has developed a professional indemnity insurance facility designed for environmental professionals that addresses the specific risks that you are exposed to and recognises and understands your business.

Some of the key features of this facility are:

- A competitive insurance product in: premiums, deductible, endorsements and exclusions
- The facility recognises the role that the CEnvP initiative plays in risk management within the businesses.
- A facility which is able to provide cover to the majority of environmental businesses with EIANZ
- A streamlined application/proposal form
- An effective administration process that promptly deals with enquiries, renewals and claims through a dedicated team
- Premium can be paid in monthly instalments using our Premium Finance facility

If you would like to receive a quote through the EIANZ PI facility for your Professional Indemnity Insurance or for further information:

Call John Delves on

03 9603 2190

or email

john.delves@marsh.com

Marsh Pty Ltd
ABN 86 004 651 512

Marsh. The world's #1 Risk Specialists™

This information is general advice only and takes no account of your individual circumstances, needs or financial objectives. We recommend that you contact us to obtain a copy of the policy wording in order to understand whether the cover provided is appropriate for you.

Please note that EIANZ receives a financial benefit from the sale of this insurance product, enabling them to continue to develop and provide further services to their members.

Alternatively, if you would like to receive a quote when your insurance cover falls due, complete the information below and Fax John Delves on 03 9603 2753.

Name of Company: _____

Contact Person: _____

Address: _____

Fax: _____ Mobile: _____

email: _____

Best time to call you _____ am/pm Renewal Date of your Current PI Policy / /



NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to the following new members who were accepted for membership in June, July and August 2008.

Australian Capital Territory			
Neil Ellis	Member	Anjeanette Schimpf	Member
Anne Sanderson	Member	Ben McKenzie	Member
Far North Queensland			
Tanja Brugmann	Member	Dodz David	Member
Terry Farley	Member	Lynn Morrissey	Member
Alf Hogan	Member	Belinda James	Member
Dr Ian Curtis	Member	Katrina Gousmett	Member
Donna-marie Audas	Member	Heath Carney	Member
Kevin Edison	Member	Patrick Mason	Associate
New South Wales			
Dr Steven Ward	Member	Ian Lambert	Associate
Liz Norris	Member	Timothy Carroll	Associate
Bruce Mullins	Member	Kim Delaney	Associate
Mark Adams	Member	Roslyn Townsend	Associate
Robert Mezzatesta	Member	Romin Nejad	Associate
Dimitris Dimoliatis	Member	Dr Andrew Daniel	Associate
Sandi Shrimski	Member	Sally Greenup	Associate
Nickolas Comito	Member	Sally Bruns	Student
Jocelyn Karsten	Member	Amanda Tunbridge	Student
Dr Louise MacDonald	Member	Victoria	
Nilda Soto	Member	Angela Jones	Member
Wendy Johnston	Member	Amy Lomax	Member
Peter Roberts	Member	Douglas Ahearne	Member
Dr Roslyn Taplin	Member	Michael Coffey	Member
Ylva Engqvist	Member	Adrienne Thomas	Member
Jared Nichols	Associate	Alex Mikov	Member
Ruth Tregale	Student	Christopher Childs	Associate
Miguel Rivera	Student	Laura Friebel	Associate
Roger Martyn	Student	Melanie Komisarczyk	Associate
Simone Kolaric	Student	Aaron Jenkin	Student
Michelle Linklater	Student	Chris Costello	Student
Katrina Boyd	Student	Western Australia	
Fiona Harmsworth	Student	Peter Mellor	Member
Sue Akeroyd	Student	Russell Beazley	Member
Amelia Reid	Student	Caroline La Fontaine	Member
Michael Crichton	Student	Lisa Chandler	Member
South Australia			
Emma Moysey	Member	Michael Wood	Member
Gail Carnes	Member	David Smith	Member
Michael Greig	Member	Catherine Cooper	Member
Daisuke Sato	Student	Heather Baggaley	Associate
South East Queensland			
Adam Eyles	Member	Danielle Barrington	Student
Peter Owen	Member	Donny James	Student
Gianna Camacho	Member	Tasmania	
Adam Abbott	Member	Alexander Langley	Member
Vicki Low	Member	Hasanthi Tennakoon	Member
Dr Michael Clarke	Member	Shane Gould	Student
Warren Williams	Member	New Zealand	
Garry Miller	Member	John McIntosh	Member
Allison Rushton	Member	Sarah McElrea	Member
David Puxty	Member	Jenna Donaggio	Member
Amit Kelovkar	Member	Nadeine Milton	Member
Megan Hawke	Member	Simon Smith	Member
Edward Foord	Member	Lucy Brake	Member
		Tom Burkitt	Member
		Gemma Smith	Associate
		Overseas	
		Gabrielle Roy	Associate
		Jeff Mullins	Student



EIANZ DIRECTORY

COUNCIL

Executive

President: Bill Haylock

Vice President - Australia: Justin Sherrard

Vice President - New Zealand: Prof. Ian Spellerberg

Secretary: Leo Fietje

Treasurer: Michael Chilcott

Communications Editor: Dr David Hogg

Special Projects Director: Nick Kariotoglou

Divisional Councillors

ACT: Stefanie Pidcock

Far North Queensland: Dr Adam Smith

New South Wales: Desiree Lammerts

New Zealand: Jo Buckner

Northern Territory: Kate Bauer

South Australia: Dr Barbara Radcliffe

South East Queensland: Alan Chenoweth

Tasmania: Axel von Krusenstierna

Victoria: Nigel Murphy

Western Australia: Steve Wilke

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

External Relations Committee: Justin Sherrard

Policy and Practice Committee: Richard Hoy

Journal Editorial Committee (Editors): Prof.

Helen Ross, Bill Carter

Membership Promotion Committee: Lachlan Wilkinson

Professional Development Committee: Tony Petersen

Students and Young Professionals: Alison Dodd

Certification Board: Nigel Murphy

CHAPTER AND DIVISION PRESIDENTS

Australian Capital Territory: Dugal McFarlane

Far North Queensland: Adam Smith

New South Wales: Anita Mitchell

New Zealand: Dr Judith Roper-Lindsay

Northern Territory: Vacant (Bill Low acting)

South Australia: Andrew Lothian

South East Queensland: Claire Gronow

Tasmania: Philip Millin

Victoria: Vacant (Liz Hurst acting)

Western Australia: Kerry Laszig

CENTRAL OFFICE

Operations Manager: Anne Young

Membership Administrator: Debbie Howell

Vic Division Events Co-ordinator and CEnvP

Administration Assistant: Melissa Grant

SPECIAL INTEREST SECTION CONVENORS

Impact Assessment: Bryce Skarratt

EIANZ Ecology: Simon Mustoe

ADVICE FOR CONTRIBUTORS

All members are invited to contribute material to *The Environmental Practitioner*. Contributions may include:

- short articles (up to 2 pages or 1300 words) on topics of interest to other members;
- news items of members' achievements (e.g. senior appointments, awards);
- letters to the Editor;
- brief notes on other items of general interest;
- photographs of EIANZ functions; and
- requests for advice or assistance.

Material should be sent by e-mail as Word attachments. Please proofread carefully before sending. Photographs should be sent as a jpeg file or an alternative format suitable for editing.
Deadline for next issue (December): 24 November 2008.

The e-mail address for newsletter contributions is communications-editor@eianz.org.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – ADVANCE NOTICE

Members interested in attending the 2008 Annual General Meeting are advised that this will be held in Melbourne at 6.30 pm on Wednesday 29 October, following the Council meeting on 28-29 October and on the evening prior to the Conference.

Formal notice and further details will be forwarded by e-mail shortly to all members with a current e-mail address, and by post to others.

Editor: David Hogg

Email: communications-editor@eianz.org

Phone: 02-6251 3885

+ 612-6251 3885 (international)

Fax: 02-6253 1574

EIANZ Central Office

GPO Box 211, Melbourne, Vic 3001

Email: office@eianz.org

Phone: 03-9654 7473

+613-9654 7473 (international)

Fax: 03-9650 1242

Website: www.eianz.org

