

Environmental Health Association (Australia)

Newsletter

Welcome from National Chairman

The Environmental Health Association (Australia) would like to extend a warm welcome to any environmental health professional to visit the EHA Web site or participate in any EHA activity. The EHA is an Association “on the move” with a busy program through Conference, Seminars & preparing submissions and policies for the benefit of the Environmental Health Professional.

Although EHA was created in 2004, the Association has built a reputation for innovation in service delivery and excellence in Conference & Seminar presentation. We are continually reviewing our operation and looking for ways to improve service delivery and provide representation for Environmental Health Professionals.

EHA is preparing a brief to extend membership to those persons who are challenged by distance and cannot attend regular meetings or video link ups. EHA welcomes professionals where there is not an incorporated Environmental Health Association to join; EHA (Australia) or EHA (Tasmania), as a non-resident Satellite Member. As this time we welcome feedback from persons who would be interested in becoming members by email or internet or members’ feedback page (blog pages) and would be prepared to pay a smaller annual fee (likely \$50 p.a.) but be eligible for other member services as applicable.

Please read this newsletter, our first electronic version which will be listed on our web page at **Current Events** shortly after release to members.

EHA – Your Update

EHA extends a warm invitation to practitioners of Environmental Health, Environmental Science, Health Promotion, Occupational Health and Safety and allied professions. Contact the Editor on info@envirohealthaustralia.com.au with suggestions for articles and newsletter content.

Have you developed an innovative policy or work initiative? Has your team been successful in taking legal action in your district? Has your team won an award? Please forward all stories to the Editor before 30 April 2008.

EHA Membership

Log on to the EHA website at www.envirohealthaustralia.com.au for access to membership application forms, up and coming information about Conference, Seminars, and Current Events. Please review the revamped web site and send us your feedback.

EHA Employment

Your Association in conjunction with e-employment provider LG Net is providing an up to date employment vacancy service to all local governments and all EHOs in Australia. We would like as many associations / Institutes to participate to create a whole of world EHO employment page where EHOs can log on and check the availability of work in any country.

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James G Harcombe Professional Excellence Award

The EHA Executive is pleased to announce that the Inaugural James G Harcombe Professional Excellence Award has been approved as the Association's first award. The Harcombe family warmly supports this award as a visible recognition of James contribution to the Environmental Health profession and has made a bequest to the Association for this purpose.

The award recognizes James' outstanding contribution to the Environmental Health Profession. This award, made annually to a member of the Environmental Health Association, shall include a medallion or certificate and \$1,000 prize. Selection criteria will focus on persons who have made a demonstratable & recognizable contribution to the environmental health profession, a member who has made a recognizable contribution to the mentoring of a new graduate or a person who has demonstrated an ongoing high level of communication and expertise at local, state or national level.

Information about eligibility to receive the award and selection criteria will be added to the web site shortly at Current Events.

Honorary Membership

EHA is proud to announce that Trevor Davies has been awarded Honorary Membership of the Association for his outstanding contribution to the fields of Environmental and Public Health. Congratulations Trevor.

Aquatic Facilities Working Party

A written submission is invited from EHA Members to be the EHA nominee on the DOH Aquatic Facilities Working Party. The AFWP is intended to meet annually and will review issues affecting the Code of Practice for the design, construction, operation, management and maintenance of Aquatic Facilities and the Health (Aquatic Facilities) Regulations 2007. Applications may be forwarded to the EHA Donald Howell by Friday 11th April 2008. There shall be a Member and Deputy Member representative of the EHA on the working party.

EHA – Submission is now complete

DRAFT PUBLIC HEALTH BILL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT The Department of Health (WA) has released the Public Health Bill for comment prior to the final drafting before submission to parliament. A copy of the Bill may be found at the Environmental Health Directorate web site on <http://www.health.wa.gov.au/envirohealth/home/index.cfm>

EHA has prepared a final response to the Public Health Bill and this will be available shortly in the **Current Events** on our web site at www.envirohealthaustralia.com.au

The EHA Submission on the Public Health Bill is available in word format for members & colleagues on request to Piotr Zenni or Donald Howell.

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News Flash!!

Masters of Environmental Health –

Fee Reduction

Commonwealth Supported Places have now been made available for the accreditation stream of the Curtin University Masters of Environmental Health Programme. ***This is great news as it effectively means that fees have been halved. (Fees have been reduced to about \$10,500).***

Also from 1 January 2008, students undertaking the Masters of Environmental Health programme may be able to access Youth Allowance, Austudy and the Pensioner Education Supplement, depending on their eligibility.

http://www.publichealth.curtin.edu.au/html/areasofstudy_eh.htm

It should be noted that students are not able to address these HECS fees on their own and local government employer incentive schemes to reward fee paying students with successful academic outcomes, would assist in reducing the chronic EHO shortage throughout Australia.

National Environmental Health Association Meeting

Environmental Health Association (Australia) Executive Committee representatives Peter McKenzie & Llew Withers flew to Hobart to meet with representatives of the Environmental Health Association (Tasmania). The meeting was held at the Warrane TAFE College on Friday 14th February 2008. The meeting was very well represented by Tasmanian members and formed the second national meeting of the EHA.

The EHA (Australia) & EHA (Tasmania) are completely autonomous bodies but share a commonality of purpose and objectives.

The meeting discussed issues of common interest including

- Workforce Reform & critical EHO vacancies across Australia
- Environmental Health Para-Professionals & the Wall Report to enHealth
- National expansion of the Environmental Health Association
- National Conference in Fremantle, September 2008
- Continuing Professional Development
- enHealth strategy 2007 - 2012

As issue papers are developed, they will be circulated to members for comment.

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2008 National Environmental Health Conference

Wednesday 24th - Thursday 25th -

Friday 26th September 2008

The Environmental Health Association is holding its 4th Annual National Environmental Health Conference at The Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle.

Information relating to speakers and their topics of discussion will be released in July 2008 with registration form.

Members and guests should budget for 2007 conference fees.

Friendly Competition with Institute of Environmental Health (AIEH)

A number of EHOs have raised the prospect of EHA working with the AIEH. Upon consideration, the EHA Executive has expressed the desire to promote a bi-partisan approach to resolve issues facing the profession, to date; no such intention has been received in return.

EHA were disappointed to note that the Institute's flagship Safe Food Australia conducted a National Food Safety Conference in Darling Harbour, Sydney on the exact dates of our 2007 National Environmental Health Conference in Fremantle. While it is noted that a co-incidence in timing was possible, its timing would seem unfortunate. EHA will continue to observe good relations wherever possible with the Institute but should programming clash, we reserve the right to proceed.

EHA had prepared a response to the Wall Report on Para-Professionals and it was considered by the then Chair of the enHealth Committee that EHA's contribution to the event may have provided constructive comment. It is regrettable to note that despite two written requests for EHA to attend and provide sponsorship to the event and contribute to discussing workforce issues at the AIEH Workforce Summit in Brisbane in July 2007, no invitation was extended in return.

Considering these events, and the Institute's lack of support for the Association to be an Associate Membership of the International Federation of Environmental Health, it is unlikely that EHA will be able to achieve a bi-partisan relationship on matters affecting the environmental health profession, but members are committed to working towards an amicable but mutually beneficial outcome.

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Environmental Health Seminar Series

EHA (Australia) will continue the very successful Seminar Series commenced after the National Conference in 2007.

In November 2007, a seminar on Climate Change presented by Ms Dianne Katscherian - Manager HIA, Department of Health (WA) and Mr Peter McKenzie - Manager Health Services, Town of Kwinana. This seminar was attended by 20 persons within the EH Profession followed by a networking session and refreshments.

On 27 February 2008 EHA held a seminar on Food Safety – “Food, from both sides”, was presented by Kim Leighton Director, Food Policy and Regulation, Australian Food and Grocery Council

Kim discussed an overview of the food manufacturers concerns in areas such as the Health Claims standard and nutrient profiling; and industry progress with agreement on third party accreditation for auditors, and Walter Arrow - Risk Management Consultant for CGU Insurance, discussed risk management and his new role in the food risk management arena.

Thirty seven persons attended this session which was video linked to Kalgoorlie & Esperance. Our thanks to CGU Insurance as event sponsor and to Mr Jim Dodds, Director Environmental Health Directorate, for use of the lecture theatre & video conference facilities at Grace Vaughan House.



Taken prior to our Food Labeling Seminar Series on Food include (l to r) Kim Leighton, Carole Theobald, Phill Oorjitham, Gillian Parton & Terry Mazzucchelli.

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Environmental Health Officer Movements (item back by popular demand)

Name	Past Appointment	Present Appointment
Marie Marendoli-Murray	Private Interests	City of Subiaco
Les Evans	Semi Retirement	City of Stirling (Temp)
James Price	Curtin Graduate	Shire of Busselton
Louis De Klerk	South Africa	Shire of Serpentine/Jarrahdale
Kevin Pond	City of Nedlands (Relieving Officer)	City of Rockingham (Relieving Officer)
Matthew Cantrell	Private Enterprise	City of Nedlands
Tony Bailey	City of Mandurah	Private Enterprise
Stuart Greer	City of Subiaco	City of Cockburn
Tim Brokenshire	Private Interests	Shire of Manjimup
Jacqueline Luseno	Curtin Masters EH Graduate	Shire of Kalamunda

There are now 22 EHOs & EH Technician listed on the DOH Relieving Officers list. Please email EHO@health.wa.gov.au to obtain a copy or if you wish to have your name & details placed on the list.

Promotions – It is refreshing to see present and former EHOs advancing in their career.

Name	Past Appointment	Present Appointment
Scott Reitsma	PEHO Shire of Exmouth	PEHO City of Albany
Gregg Harwood	Co-ord City of Albany	Mgr Shire of Denmark
James Wickens	City of Mandurah	PEHO Shire of Ashburton
Chris Tanner	City of Rockingham	Co-ord Town of Kwinana
Glen Bangay	Shire of Chittering (Temp)	PEHO Shire of Moora
Greg Ducas	Co-ord City of Gosnells	Co-ord City of Stirling
Albert Meyerkort	City of Perth	Co-ord City of Belmont
Mal Osborne	CEO Shire of Coolgardie	CEO Shire of Esperance
Daniel Sims	Director City of Wanneroo	CEO City of Gosnells
Gary Brennan	A/CEO City of Geraldton- Greenough	CEO City of Geraldton- Greenough

Contributions in electronic format should be sent to the Editor EHA Newsletter on info@envirohealthaustralia.com.au