

September 2022

EHA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER

Winter Edition

We're officially 3/4 through 2022 and EHA National are in full swing!

We have our EHA National Conference being held in Launceston at the end of September 2022 - registrations close 9th Sep 22 5:00 PM so register now to avoid missing out!
<https://www.ehata.org.au/events/event/eha-national-conference-2022>

As always, if there is anything EHA can do to support you, please contact samantha.smith@eh.org.au

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Message from the President

By Philip Swain

I have just returned from the International Federation of Environmental Health Council Meeting and the 16 th World Congress in Kuala Lumpur Malaysia. I feel proud and humbled, having represented your organisation and the environmental profession throughout Australia, at the event. I was also very pleased to be in the company of EHA (WA) representatives Ms Toni Hannelly from Curtin University and Mr Vic Andrich EHA(WA) State President, who presented the formal bid for the 17th World Congress to be held in Perth, Western Australia. The bid was formally accepted at the Council meeting, and we look forward to welcoming hundreds of delegates from around the world to Perth in May 2024. Whether you are an officer, manager, educator or other environmental health professional I encourage all members from around Australia to consider making the pilgrimage to Perth for what will be a great opportunity to showcase our profession on the world stage.

It really is conference season at the moment, with the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Environmental Health Conference kicking off in Darwin this week as I write. EHA is a proud sponsor of this important and pragmatic event, which hosts contributions from aboriginal communities around Australia and research and practical papers on real grass roots environmental health. The EHA(Qld) State Symposium is also to be held in Dalby Queensland next week.

And I also look forward to seeing many of you at our 45 th National Conference at Country Club Tasmania in Launceston Monday 26th To Friday 30th September 2022. The conference entitled Environmental Health - Celebrating Triumphs and Tribulations will bring together a great collection of speakers and research nationally and internationally on a variety of topics. Following the difficulties of Covid19 for such events over the last three (3) years, this is again a great opportunity for Members to participate.

I note the recent workforce summit in Canberra and the announced changes to skilled migration. Whilst this will not solve workforce shortages, it is a pleasing step which may allow some easing of the shortages we are experiencing

in the environmental health profession. As I mentioned in the last newsletter EHA has been lobbying for the past three years for an environmental health workforce study. I again encourage all Managers to consider, particularly our post graduate courses, for cadet internship and traineeship opportunities within your organisation and recommend that you contact our educators if pursuing such opportunities. I would also like to thank Director, Dr Kirsten Ross and her Flinders University staff, for their work to date surveying Members regarding this important issue. EHA is currently exploring avenues to further develop the workforce project.

As we move into spring, the grip of the current flu season will hopefully ease and with it the pressure on primary health care. From an environmental health perspective though, there is still much to do. With the oncoming spring and summer seasons, with again likely heavy rainfall events along the East coast, and seasonal mosquito breeding and other issues in many areas, this is no time for complacency within our communities. The proliferation of diseases and overseas impacts from Monkeypox, continuing Covid19 management and the potential for foot and mouth disease reaching Australia from Indonesia, are all matters that we are rightfully concerned about. Although the latter wont directly impact human health it would be potentially catastrophic for our regional and farming communities, many of which are just getting back on their feet after the impact of floods, cyclones, bushfires and Covid19.

On a more positive front, EHA in conjunction with the NZIEH and other associations from around the world will this year participate in a podcast to be recorded and circulated to celebrate World Environmental Health Day on 26 th September. I encourage Members to participate in future events or view recordings such as the WEHD podcast, to stay in touch with contemporary issues confronting us all.

Yours in environmental health

Philip Swain LFEHA

National President

Environmental Health Australia



WEHD Competition Winner!

Every year, Environmental Health Australia hosts a competition for EHA accredited university course students to celebrate World Environmental Health Day (WEHD). This year, EHA's National Conference will be taking place the same week as WEHD and so we moved our competition forward by a month so our winner was able to attend.

**We are very pleased to announce our 2022 WEHD competition winner:
Indiannah (Indi) Stuart from Flinders University!**

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW OUR WINNING ENTRY](#)



National Updates

EHA AGM, 26 September 2022

Environmental Health Australia Limited will hold the AGM for 2022 at 5:00 pm (Australian Eastern Daylight Time [AEDT]) on Monday 26th September 2022 in the Macquarie Room at the Country Club Tasmania, Launceston, Tasmania.

The Annual General Meeting will:

- Confirm the minutes from the AGM held on 9th December 2021;
- Enable the National President to deliver a report on activities over the past twelve months;
- Appoint an Auditor for the EHA financial accounts for 2022-2023 and
- Announce the Directors on the Board.

Section 16 of the Constitution enables a Member on the Board has the right to appoint a proxy. If a proxy is to be appointed, the details must be received by national@eh.org.au at the close of business on **Monday 19th September 2022**.

Full details of the AGM including the agenda can be located on the website at:

<https://www.eh.org.au/about-us/national-board>

World Food Safety Day

In collaboration with the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) in the US, we held a LiveChat panel discussion on June 7th via the EHA Facebook Page with food safety regulators from around the world. The discussions explored the inter-connectivity of food safety and how food is kept safe in communities across the globe.

A recording of the panel discussion is available on the EHA YouTube Channel: <https://youtu.be/lbrM1eXiAQc> for anyone



National Science Week

This year, EHA took part in National Science Week by hosting 2 small LiveChat events on August 13th and August 15th. On Saturday 13th we spoke with Julian Cox who is an Honorary Associate Professor (Food Microbiology) at the University of NSW on the fermentation and preservation in glass. A recording of his presentation is on the EHA YouTube channel here: <https://youtu.be/NzLqK3msG9Y> for anyone who was unable to join us or would like to view again. We then spoke with Lydia Buchtman from the Food Safety Information Council on the history of glass and why it's a good food storage material. A recording of Lydia's presentation is also available on the EHA YouTube channel: <https://youtu.be/zbmhcAu39q0>



State Updates

EHA (QLD) Inc.

Regional Group Meetings:

Darling Downs/South West Regional Group

Quilpie, 17 March 22: This was a hybrid event that was well attended. Being a 10 ½ hour drive west of Brisbane, it was a good opportunity to support our regional areas. The agenda included the benefits and challenges of bore water and the impact of COVID on tourism in the outback. Thank you to Quilpie Shire Council for hosting the meeting and sponsors TradeMutt and Palfinger.

Goondiwindi, 29 July 22: The agenda for the meeting at Goondiwindi (4 hours south west of Brisbane) included turning wastewater into green hydrogen, algae farm operations and waste compliance. Thank you to Goondiwindi Regional Council for hosting the meeting and to our sponsor, Proterra Group.

The next meeting of the Darling Downs Regional Group will be held in Warwick on Friday 25 November.

Central Queensland Regional Group Meeting: The next Central Queensland Regional Group meeting is scheduled for 7 and 8 October in Rockhampton. Keep an eye of the website for the agenda.

Northern Queensland Regional Group Conference: Save the Date! The Northern Group Conference will be held at Tinaroo Resort from Friday 25 th to Sunday 27th November. Keep an eye on the website for updates.

Professional Development

The Environmental Health Disaster Management Course was held in Townsville in July this year. This is the first time since 2019 that this course has been held. There was a change in focus this year for the course to be on emergency management and disasters in the Australasian Pacific region. The course was well attended. Feedback from the course participants will enable the facilitators to continue to build the course to maintain relevance for environmental health officers in disaster and emergency management in the Australasian region.



EHA (QLD) INC Symposium

The QLD Symposium will be held in Dalby on Tuesday 13 th and Wednesday 14 th September. The program includes presentations on waste management, COVID, Food safety, JEV, water management, SDG's and a panel discussion on high performing teams. Bob Handby AO, is a keynote speaker who will be sharing his experiences of 30 years as an international aid worker.

The dinner and awards night will celebrate the QLD Excellence Awards winners and the members who have successfully achieved their CPD.

The symposium will conclude with a one day Enviro School which will include sessions on illegal dumping, oil spills and toxic chemical drum contamination.



EHA (NSW) Inc.

NSW Board: The NSW AGM was held in Newcastle on Wednesday 17 August. The Board have elected their office bearers for 2022-2023.

They are:

President: Erin Hogan; Vice President: Sarah Ainsworth; Treasurer and Secretary: Matthew Rand
The NSW Board has been listening to their Members and are continually improving how they operate, advocate and represent EH at local, state, and federal levels.

EHA (NSW) INC Conference: 16-18 August 2022, Newcastle Exhibition and Convention Centre (NEX) Newcastle

This was the first NSW conference in three years. The conference was officially opened by the Hon Minister Brad Hazzard. Professor Tim Flannery was the keynote speaker who spoke about the climate emergency which is detailed in his book “The Climate Cure”



The dinner and awards night announced the winners of the NSW Excellence Awards. Congratulations to:

NSW Environmental Health Professional of the Year: Sharomi Dayanand, Wagga Wagga City Council

(Sponsored by Open Office)

NSW Early Career Environmental Health Professional of the Year: Tara Arduin, Penrith City Council

NSW Environmental Health Student of the Year: Sarah Kemp, Penrith City Council (Sponsored by the Rand Family)

NSW Environmental Health Team of the Year: Tweed Shire Council

NSW Special Achievement Award: Dr Maggie Davidson, Western Sydney University

Two new Life Fellows were also recognised at the dinner and awards night. Congratulations Dr Greg Whiteley and Brian Jones. And congratulations to Lisa Hughes who was upgraded to Fellow status.

Further details on the award recipients will be published in the next NSW Newsletter.

EHA (VIC) LTD.

The first Victorian Noise Management Course was held at the Trawool Estate on Wednesday 27 and Thursday 28 July. The feedback from the course was extremely positive. Future noise management courses will be scheduled for the Melbourne metropolitan area in 2023.

Melbourne Careers Expo

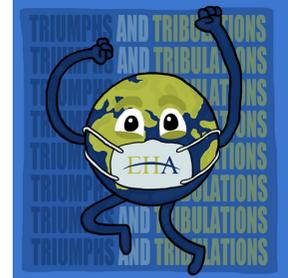
EHA was represented at the Melbourne Careers Expo on 15 th and 16 th July to promote the environmental health profession. The Careers stand was shared with Kernow, Swinburne University of Technology and EHPA. It was pleasing to see interest in the environmental health profession from school students.



EHA (TAS) Inc.

45th EHA National Conference: Environmental Health – Celebrating Triumphs and Tribulations

Registrations close Friday 9 September!



Environmental Health Australia (Tasmania) is hosting the 45th EHA National Conference from 26th to 29th September 2022 at the Country Club Tasmania in Launceston. The program has been finalised and this will be a conference not to be missed. The sessions included the impact of climate change on public health, drinking water and wastewater, food, environmental health research, surviving the pandemic, improving the profession, public health, international perspectives on environmental health and more.

All conference abstracts can be viewed on the website at <https://www.ehatas.org.au/events-info/conferences-2/45th-eha-national-conference>

The conference dinner and awards night will celebrate the receipts of the TAS Excellence Awards and members who have achieved their CPD points for 2020-2022. The recipient of the Margaret Hind Memorial Award will also be announced.

You can register your attendance at <https://www.ehatas.org.au/events/event/eha-national-conference-2022>

We look forward to seeing you in Launceston!



EHA (SA) Inc.

- The SA Board meets in February each year to determine training for the year.

- SA has been offering training on “Mad, Sad, Bad”. They are looking at the option of including the training with the conference instead of a stand-alone training program.

- K Ross has been engaged in research and has been releasing research papers. She recently completed a research paper on COVID.



EHA (WA) Inc.

- WA Health is developing a training plan to meet CPD requirements that aligns with the EHA CPD policy

- WA is developing a pesticide certificate course for public health

- Foodsafe is functioning well.

- WA is no longer producing a hard copy journal and are investigating an online newsletter.

State Events

Upcoming

Queensland

13th - 15th September : EHA (QLD) INC 80th Annual Symposium

Dalby Events Centre, Dalby QLD

Members Price - \$880

Non-Members Price - \$1,260

Registrations Open - Close 2nd Sep 22 5:00 PM

13th - 15th September : EHA (QLD) INC 80th Annual Symposium Enviro School

Dalby Events Centre, Dalby QLD

Members Price - \$330

Non-Members Price - \$440

Registrations Open - Close 2nd Sep 22 5:00 PM

7th - 8th October : CQ Regional Group Conference

Rockhampton, QLD

Price - TBA

Registrations Open - Close 3rd October 22 11:59PM

25th November : DD/SW Regional Group Meeting

Warwick, QLD

Members Price - \$0

Registrations Open - Close 18th Nov 22 11:59 PM

25th November : EHA (QLD) INC Northern Group Conference 2022

Tinaroo Lake Resort, Tinaroo, QLD

Members Price - \$110.00 (Students \$100)

Non Members Price - \$150

Registrations Not Yet Open

Tasmania

26th - 30th September : EHA National Conference - "Environmental Health - Celebrating Triumphs and Tribulations"

Country Club Tasmania, Launceston

Members Price - \$990

Non-Members Price - \$1,320

Registrations Open - Close 9th Sep 22 5:00 PM

South Australia

24th - 25th November : 41st Annual State Conference

National Wine Centre of Australia

Members Price - \$595

Non-Members Price - \$750

Registrations Open

Environmental health essential in an Australian CDC

Sophie Dwyer PSM

One of the positive aspects of the conversation that the PHAA has been having around the formation of a Centre for Disease Control (CDC) has been the recognition that a CDC needs to have a broader scope than solely that of communicable disease control. The purpose of this article is to explore the inclusion of an environmental health focus in the Centre.

These are my personal reflections and observations having spent many years in the field of environmental health at the state and national level, including as a state director of environmental health programs and chair of the Environmental Health Standing Committee of the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee.

Environmental health's important role

So, what do I mean by 'environmental health'? It is simply about identifying and managing risks to health from the physical environment. For those with an interest in the history of public health, it is probably one of the oldest parts of any health department. The 19th and early 20th century public health agendas were focussed on sanitation, hygiene, safe food and medicines, poisons control, and the control of noxious industries.

These challenges were thought to have been solved, and certainly the increases in life expectancy due to the provision of safe food, water, human waste, and environmental pollutants through town planning

and emissions controls are there to see. Further, over the 20th century, this environmental health agenda was taken up across government with many non-health agencies tasked with managing these risks, including town planning, water management, and occupational health to name just a few.

So why is environmental health still so important and what does a CDC need to focus on? The old problems were never 'solved'. Rather, the problems have re-emerged in a different context. Take 'noxious fumes' as a case in point. The most significant environmental problem of the 21st century is climate change arising from the combustion of fossil fuels producing carbon dioxide and other sources of greenhouse gasses. The challenge of safe water is still not solved, particularly in rural communities.

When one looks at good national public health leadership models in other countries, environmental health (both science and workforce) is integrated within their national public health agency model. The US and UK both have a broader remit and include issues such as response to climate change risks, chemicals, and radiation safety.

Air pollution and PFAS

In recent years, Australia's public health system was caught out by two significant environmental health issues and the lack of investment in environmental health science, namely, the health effects of air pollution and PFAS (Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances).

The widespread bushfires across eastern Australia in 2019-20 saw differing health advice across jurisdictions being provided to the public. This included advice on whether face masks were useful, and whether outdoor activity needed to cease and at what pollution levels.

The emergence of the PFAS, mainly from use of certain firefighting foams, has been a costly challenge for industry, health, environment, agriculture, defence, and other agencies. It caused significant mental health and financial impacts on local communities who were faced with contamination of their land and water sources.

While these issues are perhaps not as major as the COVID-19 pandemic, they were certainly more significant and more costly issues than a typical run-of-the-mill disease control incident.

Full article:

<https://intouchpublichealth.net.au/environmental-health-essential-in-an-australian-cdc-sophie-dwyer-psm/>

EHA Socials

Keep up to date with all the latest news through the EHA social media platforms. In case you missed them, below are some of the top posts for the past 2 months.



June

EHA World Food Safety Day LiveChat!

July

We're kicking off the EHA (QLD) Disaster Management Course in Townsville this morning! Great to see everyone here and ready for a great week of learning and networking.

#disaster #training #EH #EHO #EHA #disastermanagement

August

The World Congress on Environmental Health is coming to Perth, Australia in 2024! The IFEH voted to support the bid by EHA (WA) to run the next World Congress in Perth from 20th - 25th of May so save the date and start planning your trip to WA in 2024.

View full media release here: <https://www.eh.org.au/documents/item/1275>

#worldcongress #IFEH #EH #congress #event #Quokka #Perth #WA #WCEH



June

World Food Safety Day recording now available! Thank you for all who joined us for our collaborative World Food Safety Day LiveChat with [@national-environmental-health-association](#) last week. For those who couldn't join us, we have put together a highlights video from both the EHA and NEHA LiveChat events. <https://lnkd.in/dHNe2Wz8>

#foodsafety #wfsd22 #foodsafety #EH

July

We're kicking off the EHA (QLD) Disaster Management Course in Townsville this morning! Great to see everyone here and ready for a great week of learning and networking.

#disaster #training #EH #EHO #EHA #disastermanagement

August

EHA World Environmental Health Day Competition. Attention all EHA accredited course students! The EHA WEHD competition entries close 11:59pm (AEST) August 26th. <https://lnkd.in/eTWgN9Ex>

The winner will receive registration for the EHA National Conference and have the opportunity to showcase their entry and network with EH professionals from around the country!



June

Who's excited for our World Food Safety Day LiveChat tomorrow?! We will be kicking things off this time tomorrow (11am QLD time, 7th June) on the EHA Facebook page facebook.com/EnvHealthAu. Be sure to join us to ask questions to our panellists and get involved!

#WFS22 #foodsafety

July

We're now half way through the 2022 school year! Have you decided what career path you want to follow? Environmental health is diverse, challenging and dynamic. Find out more in this video youtu.be/8Shqa61C5ZE

#EH #highschool #graduation2022

August

The World Congress on Environmental Health is coming to Perth, Australia in 2024! The IFEH voted to support the bid by EHA (WA) to run the next World Congress in Perth from 20th - 25th of May.

#IFEH #EH #Quokka #Perth #WA

What is environmental health?

Examining a massive influence on our health: The Environment

Gwen Ranniger

What is environmental health?

Environmental health is a branch of public health that monitors the relationship between human health and the environment, examining aspects of both our natural and man-made environment and their effect on human wellbeing.

What is an example of environmental health?

Environmental health is a broad area of study — everything from the climate to the food we eat to the air we breathe plays into environmental health. A few specific examples include:

- Air pollution: Living near factories or heavy traffic worsens air quality and leads to health impacts on the lungs and heart such as asthma and increased risk of heart attacks or stroke.
- Water contamination: Drinking lead-contaminated water can cause IQ loss, behavioral issues, learning disabilities and more. Infants and young children are most at risk.
- Toxic chemicals in consumer products: Phthalates, a class of chemicals that are widely used in consumer products, are known endocrine-disruptors, meaning they hijack your body's hormones and can cause a wide array of health impacts including increased risk of cancer and fertility issues.

What is the role of environmental health?

The role of environmental health research is to examine areas of the environment that impact our health so that we can make personal and policy changes to keep ourselves safe and improve human health and wellbeing.

Why is environmental health important?

Environmental health impacts every one of us.

We reap the benefits of clean air, clean water, and healthy soil. If our environment is unhealthy, with toxic chemicals saturating our resources and pollution abundant, then our health also suffers.

It is also an important field of study because it looks at the “unseen” influences on your health.

Many individuals may not associate their health problems with air or water quality, or with what clothes they wear, makeup and household goods they use, or food they eat.

That's because not every example of environmental health problems are obvious: some chemicals, for example, build up slowly over time in your body: a small dose may not seem to bring harm, but repeated small doses can lead to later impacts.

- BPA absorbed through plastic containers, cans, receipts, etc. lingers in the body and the build-up over time increases risk of cancer, diabetes, liver failure, and more.
- PFAS are known as ‘forever chemicals’ — they don't break down and are widely used, so small exposures are frequent and contribute to immune system and reproductive damages, heightened cholesterol levels, and more.
- Mercury from eating seafood and shellfish can impact neurological development of fetuses in the womb, and populations that regularly consume mercury-heavy seafood have

shown mild cognitive impairment.

Also, individual susceptibility can differ: for example, one member of a household can experience illness, asthma, migraines, etc. from chemicals found in their water supply while another member of the same household is just fine, such as the case in a young girl's reaction to benzene in her water from living near fracking wells.

Certain variables play a role in susceptibility and level of adverse health effects such as age, gender, pregnancy, and underlying health conditions. Studies suggest fetuses, infants and children are much more at risk to experience lifelong health problems from toxic chemical exposure.

Rate, duration, and frequency of exposure to toxic chemicals and other influences from our environment all factor into our health.

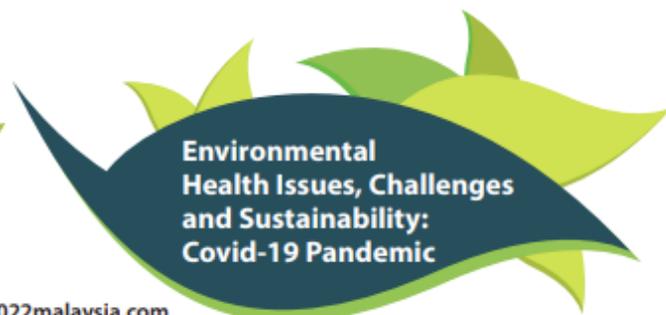
Good environmental health = good human health.

Full article:

<https://www.ehn.org/what-is-environmental-health-2657680870/particle-7>

International Federation of Environmental Health (IFEH)

-Andrew Mathieson



23rd-25th August 2022



World Trade Centre, Kuala Lumpur



www.wceh2022malaysia.com

The Federation works to disseminate knowledge concerning environmental health and promote co-operation between countries where environmental health issues are transboundary. It promotes the interchange of people working in this sector and the exchange of Member's publications of a scientific and technical nature. EHA is a founding member of IFEH. A modest amount of your subscription is passed onto IFEH to help in its activities.

I recently returned from the World Congress on Environmental Health held last week in Kuala Lumpur. A fantastic opportunity to meet and exchange ideas with colleagues from around the world. I always find it a humbling experience meeting true champions in EH who are only too happy to share ideas and offer support. I encourage you to check out the papers, photos etc, still available <https://www.wceh2022malaysia.com>

Great news for EHA(WA) and EHA(National) as they have been awarded the 17th IFEH World Congress in Environmental Health. I for one will be attending and I encourage as many members as possible to think how you can showcase the exceptional work EHA members are doing day to day so that we can present the best of the best to the rest of the world. Perhaps link up with an academic colleague to shape your data into a paper wither for EHA Newsletter of the IFEH magazine (IFEH Hon Editor: andrew.mathieson@anu.edu.au)

IFEH also ran a successful academics forum at WCEH with some 15 Countries being represented including new friends from South America who presented short papers (Mexico, Brazil, Argentina and Argentina). We also heard papers from Uganda, Ghana, Denmark and Australia (colleagues from Flinders). These papers and others will be published in a bumper IFEH magazine soon to be available at <https://www.ifeh.org/publications.html>

Don't forget to Sam/IFEH editor know what you are doing for World Environmental Health Day (WEHD) (26th September). Theme for the 2022 World Environmental Health Day: Strengthening Environmental Health Systems for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. IFEH is lobbying to have WEHD adopted by WHO and placed on its action calendar, as WHO Europe did a couple of years ago. <https://www.ifeh.org/wehd/>



This is a photo of the IFEH Board (Vic Andrich on the front right is the Board member for Pacific Region), members of IFEH Council and the Malaysian organising committee.

New Zealand Institute of Environmental Health (NZIEH)

Kia Ora Aussie friends,

Winter has officially ended and we hope for some settled spring weather here in NZ after several parts of the country have endured rare weather events causing significant flood damage.

Meanwhile, our virtual events have been going strong here in NZ - we recently held a 3 day webinar series with 130 registrants for each session. The 2 hour webinars were held on three consecutive Wednesdays covering a wide variety of topics with the following presentations:

Keeping things virtual, I delivered my presentation 'NZ Food Safety & Security challenges during the Pandemic' virtually on 24 August at the IFEH World Congress in Malaysia. I was delighted to be invited as a guest speaker but unable to attend in person on this occasion.

Speaking of The World Congress, we are thrilled that the the 2024 event is coming to Perth and send our hearty congratulations to all involved at EHA (WA)!

Our third EHZANZ webinar is coming up on Thursday 1 September to recognise 'International Awareness of Food loss & waste day'. We are looking forward to the presentation by Jessica Wundke from Green Industries SA and also NZ speakers Nigel Davenport and Nicky Solomon who will be talking about the 'Sustainable is Attainable' initiative being facilitated in Timaru and Hawkes Bay. You can read about this initiative here.

For our NZIEH members, our branch representatives are busy organising their face to face branch events with the Southern Branch event coming up on 8 September and Central North Island Branch events planned for 21 September & 8 November. NZIEH are also supporting Keep New Zealand Beautiful - Clean up week 2022 (17-23 September) with a prize draw on offer for all members who take part. All our events both virtual and face to face are listed on our website www.nzieh.org.nz

Lastly, preparations are underway for a face to face professional development conference here in NZ in 2023 which is very exciting for us following 2 consecutive years of virtual conferences. Details coming soon.

This leads us on to wish all our friends at EHA a very enjoyable and successful conference in Tasmania! Not long to go now and I am looking forward to being able to reconnect with you all in person very soon.

Nga mihi
Tanya Morrison
NZIEH National President
www.nzieh.org.nz

As you may be aware, EHA is now a part of the Climate And Health Alliance (CAHA) and as such we have been receiving regular member updates on the organisation's actions. For your convenience, please find a quarterly summary of CAHA news received by EHA. If you would like weekly updates, please email caha-members@googlegroups.com

June

Missed it? Recording of CAHA post-election briefing

Thanks to all of those who made it to Wednesday's post-election briefing. It was great to have you all in one space to reflect on the election that was, and share our plans for the course forward. If you missed it, we highly encourage you to check out the [recording](#) and the [slides](#).

Introducing the UQ Mental Health in Climate Change Transdisciplinary Research Network

A multitalented group of researchers across universities have formed this important network to focus on mental health for communities affected by extreme weather events due to a changing climate. The Network partners with government, NGOs and industry to co-design research to inform interventions, tools, and policies.

New research on climate-related mental wellbeing in young people

Research from the Institute of Health Transformation at Deakin University mapped the drivers of climate-related mental wellbeing, as well as actions and priorities to improve mental wellbeing of young people aged 18-24 years in Australia.

Giant steps to reduce the health sector's carbon emissions - Croakey

CAHA founder Fiona Armstrong joined Dr Forbes McGain & Craig Reucassel as panellists during the Giant Steps 2022 Conference on May 26th. Panellists explored themes surrounding the carbon footprint of Australian healthcare and strategies being taken to reduce these.

[Read the article here.](#)

New CAHA Submission!

CAHA was able to provide feedback on the draft Protection of the Environment Operations (Clean Air) Regulation in 2022, in the [submission here](#). We will keep members posted on any developments that arise from this submission.

Greening the Healthcare Sector Forum

CAHA / Global Green and Healthy Hospitals Pacific is partnering with Hunter New England Local Health District this year to run our Greening the Healthcare Sector Forum in Newcastle / online on Friday 7th October!

Climate, housing, energy and Indigenous health: a call to action

We encourage members to read this short paper released last week, which outlines how extreme issues in housing, energy and climate affecting remote Indigenous communities will worsen with climate change. "The convergence of excessive heat, poor housing, energy insecurity and chronic disease has reached critical levels." [Read the paper.](#)

Young adults needed for research on climate and mental health

Deakin researchers are running a study on the links between climate change and young people's mental health. They invite young adults living in Australia (18-24 years) to participate in an online interview and/or online Group Model Building workshops. Participants will receive a \$20 voucher in appreciation for their time. Please share this opportunity, and direct interested people to Dr Rebecca Patrick, rebecca.patrick@deakin.edu.au

Indigenous rights in Australia

In a new submission, CAHA has called on the Australian government to implement the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). Even though Australia signed up to the declaration almost a decade ago, it still has not been implemented.

Read [CAHA's recommendations](#) here.

July

First ever Healthy Conversation: ‘Talking climate in your workplace’

The series kicked off with a conversation about ‘Talking climate in your workplace.’ If you missed it, we encourage you to check out the [recording](#) and the [slides](#).

Reportback: the second Australian Health Leadership Roundtable on Climate Action

On Wednesday 29 June, CAHA hosted the second Australian Health Leadership Roundtable on Climate Action, attended by all health ministries. Assistant Health Minister Ged Kearney attended, marking the first time a federal minister has attended this forum. Read the report [here](#).

Pacific Islands Forum - Open letter to Australian PM

Ahead of the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting later this month, CAHA has signed onto an open letter to the Australian PM, urging the Australian government to accelerate climate action and justice across the Pacific region. Read the open letter [here](#).

Launched! Fossil Ad Ban

Thanks to all the CAHA member organisations and individuals who signed onto the Open Letter, calling for a ban on fossil fuel advertising and sponsorship. The [campaign](#) is live now, with a great video featuring health professionals and a tool to email your local council. [Here](#) is some international coverage.

Better Futures Forum, 6-7 September

All CAHA members are invited to the [Better Futures Forum](#) in Canberra / online on 6-7 September. The forum will showcase climate champions across all corners of society and engage decision-makers in forging collaborative pathways to healthier, climate resilient, prosperous and better futures for us all. The forum is run by Better Futures Australia, a cross-sectoral initiative to which CAHA is a proud contributor. CAHA member organisations are also invited to [sign the BFA declaration](#) calling for ambitious climate action in multiple sectors.

Geelong gas terminal public hearings

This week, CAHA is participating in public hearings on a proposed new gas terminal in Geelong. Earlier this year, CAHA sent in a [submission](#) opposing the project, because of the significant risks to human health and wellbeing, and will put Victoria’s climate goals out of reach.

New microcredential: Sustainable Healthcare in Practice

The Monash Sustainable Development Institute is launching a Sustainable Healthcare in Practice course in August! If you want to make a difference and contribute towards positive change, this course will provide you with the knowledge and skills to create sustainable practice for a healthy future. More details [here](#).

August

Article: “Natural systems in Australia are unravelling. If they collapse, human society could too”

Former CAHA President Professor Liz Hanna co-wrote this excellent news article for The Conversation with Professor Mark Howden last week. Read [here](#).

Sign on opportunity! 100% renewables for Victoria by 2030

[Healthy Futures](#) is leading a collective call for bipartisan support for 100% renewable energy for Victoria by 2030. CAHA has signed onto the letter, joining the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, the Health Services Union Victoria, and others.

New article: Health care is responsible for 7% of our carbon emissions

Professor Alexandra Barratt and Dr Scott McAlister explore what healthcare can do about its emissions. Read the article [here](#)

Sign on opportunity! Health professionals call for Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty

The Global Climate and Health Alliance is coordinating an Open Letter from health professionals and organisations worldwide, backing the calling for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty. CAHA has signed on and encourages you to do the same. Health organisations and individuals are welcomed to sign on [here](#).

First For Training

By Andrew Mathieson



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By Rebecca Magill

Open Office and IT Vision combine local government expertise

IT Vision has joined forces with Open Office, to create Australia's leading customer-centric Local Government enterprise software provider. IT Vision has been developing digital enterprise solutions for Local Government for 30 years, and its software is used by more than 190 councils across Australia.

Open Office delivers leading edge, innovative, customer focused enterprise solutions designed specifically for Local Governments. Open Office's public sector experience, proven technology, and passion for innovation make us the platform of choice for Local Governments seeking to improve government and community engagement.

Open Office and IT Vision have a shared reputation and vision for building strong and enduring partnerships with more than 300 Local Government customers. With combined deep market expertise, their suite of business products are must-have, not nice to have – they help to improve business productivity, meet regulatory and compliance requirements, are the source of truth for core records and are deeply embedded in the workflow of customers.

Existing customers will continue to be supported by the same great team of talented and highly experienced people, backed by the scale and expertise of ReadyTech.

IT Vision was acquired by ASX-listed technology company ReadyTech (ASX:RDY) in July 2022. ReadyTech previously acquired Open Office, bolstering its mission-critical Software as a Service (SaaS) offering for the Government sector.

With the acquisition of IT Vision, ReadyTech is combining the technology, talent and passion for service at IT Vision with that of the existing Open Office and Open Windows team, as part of its Government segment.

For more information visit readytech.com.au/news-and-views/newsroom/readytech-completes-acquisition-of-it-vision/



EHA

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AUSTRALIA

Do you have something to contribute to the EHA National Newsletter?
Get in touch with our National Communications Officer and newsletter
editor, Samantha Smith to discuss articles, advertising and more.



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