




ANNUAL REPORT 2008



Food Safety Management
Professional Development
Disease Control
Environment Management
Disaster Management
Indigenous Health
Healthy Settings
Education and Accreditation
Environmental Health Journal

Our Environment, Our Health, Our Future

EHA
ENVIRONMENTAL
HEALTH AUSTRALIA

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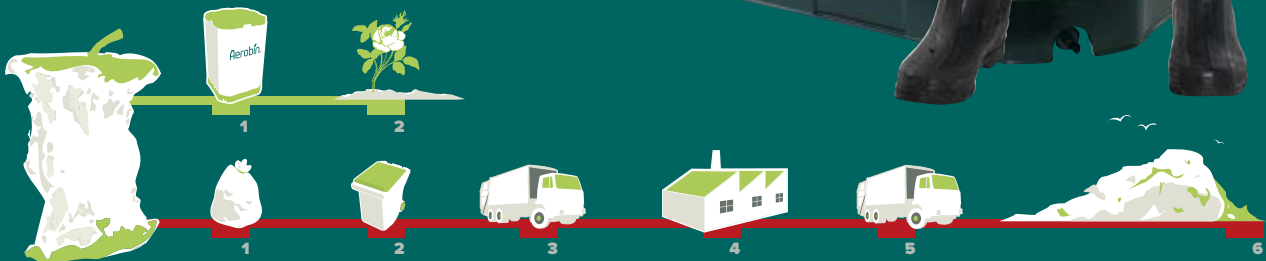
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Annual Report 2007-2008

Environmental Health Australia

(formerly Australian Institute of Environmental Health)

ABN 58 000 031 998

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Board of Directors

Environmental Health Australia



National President

Dr Jim Smith LFAIEH

Jim has been a public health management consultant for twenty years and he has provided services to government, industry and community sectors in the areas of public and environmental health strategic planning and facilitation, policy development, and food safety risk management. Jim's professional background includes: nursing; local and state environmental health service delivery; executive management; university teaching and research; and business.

Jim's research interests are intergovernmental relations in public health, the history and development of the local government public and environmental health role, environmental health education and practice, and food safety policy. Jim has been an active member of EHA for many years and currently chairs the Board's Environmental Health Course Advisory Committee, and is the Editor of Environmental Health. In the past he has been President of the Victorian Branch (1998-2002), a Board Director (1999 - 2003), National Vice-President (2000 - 2003), and the Board's Policy and Governance Adviser (2003-06).



Senior Vice President

Joseph Zappavigna MAIEH

Joseph Zappavigna completed his Bachelor of Science (Environmental Health) at Curtin University WA in 1992 and in 1997 his Graduate Diploma (Environmental Science) at Murdoch University WA. In his graduating year he was awarded, jointly with a current colleague, the 1992 Harold Salter Award for students showing the highest level of professional potential during the study of environmental health.

Joseph is in his thirteenth year as an Environmental Health Practitioner working in Local Government in Western Australia (City of Perth, Victoria Park and currently at Fremantle).

Between 1992 and 1994 Joseph progressed his EHA membership from Student, to Associate and then to Member status. He has consistently been elected to WA/NT Branch Council since 1998 and during his time on Branch Council has been involved in various committees, including legislation review and food safety. Particularly Joseph's interests are in environmental management and he continues to coordinate the WA/NT Branch Environmental Management Special Interest Group.

In June 2004 Joseph was elected as a Director on the Board of EHA and continues to participate and contribute with the CEO and the other Directors in the business and strategic plans of EHA. Joseph intends to remain with EHA as a member, a Branch Councillor and a Director for as long as possible and urges those Environmental Health Practitioners considering membership of EHA to act now and make their contribution to the worthwhile profession of environmental health.



Junior Vice President

Fleur Cousins FAIEH

Fleur holds a Bachelor of Applied Science (Environmental Health) and Diploma of Management and has been working in the area of Environmental Health for 12 years within local government and is currently employed by Knox City Council in the role of Coordinator Health Services.

Fleur has been actively involved with the Victorian Branch of EHA since 1997 and has held the positions of Associate State Councillor, State Councillor, State Conference committee member and secretary of the Food Safety Special Interest Group, Branch President from August 2003 to August 2005 and she joined the Board of Directors in August 2003.

During her time on the Board, Fleur has held the position of Chair of the Finance Management Committee, Convener of the 2004 National Conference held in Melbourne, Coconvener of the 2006 National Conference held in Sydney and National Vice President.

Fleur has a real passion for the Environmental Health profession and is committed to enhancing the role of EHA to support Environmental Health Practitioners.

Board of Directors

Environmental Health Australia



*Immediate
Past President
and Director
(To 19 May 2008)*

Bruce Morton FAIEH

Bruce has been working in the area of Environmental Health with local and state government since he graduated from Queensland University of Technology in 1993 and is currently employed as the Director, Environmental Health Services, West Moreton Population Health Unit, Queensland Health. Bruce also holds qualifications of a Master of Health Science, Graduate Diploma in Health Promotion and Graduate Certificate in Management.

He joined EHA as a student member in 1990 and has been a full member since 1994. Bruce was elected to the Queensland Division State Council in 1997 and has held a number of positions on the Council. He has been a National Board Director since 2002, holding a number of positions during his time, including the 2008 IFEH World Congress Organising Committee. Bruce is the Immediate Past National President of EHA and was advanced to the level of Fellow on 14 May 2008.



Professor Nancy Cromar MAIEH

Professor Nancy Cromar (BSc Hons, PhD, Napier University, Edinburgh) is currently Head of Department and Postgraduate Academic Coordinator in the Department of Environmental Health at Flinders University. Her research focus is on health-related aspects of water quality and risk assessment and management of microbial water quality related issues. Prof. Cromar is the senior editor of the popular Oxford University Press text Environmental Health in Australia and New Zealand. She has been Convenor of the National Short Courses in Environmental Health since 1996 and an expert member of the Public & Environmental Health Council of SA since 1995. She also chairs the Advisory Board for EHA journal Environmental Health. Prof. Cromar has received an EHA (SA) award for Outstanding Individual Environmental Health Professional of the Year. She currently chairs the International Faculty Forum, which is linked to the International Federation of Environmental Health (IFEH).



Stephen Davidson FAIEH

Stephen is the Proprietor of 'Food Safety Management Solutions' and has over twenty six (26) years experience in both Government and Private Sectors. He has been an active member of Environmental Health Australia (formerly AIEH) for many years, holding the positions of NSW Vice President, Board Director and National President 2003-2004. He has also held the positions of Director of the International Federation of Environmental Health (IFEH) and member of Restaurant & Catering NSW (Gold Licence Accreditation) Board. In 2006 Stephen was recognised for his dedication and service to EHA and the profession of Environmental Health, with advancement to Fellow membership status.

Stephen's qualifications include Bachelor of Applied Science (Environmental Health), Diploma in Applied Science (Health & Building Surveying), Certificate IV Training & Workplace Assessment and a Diploma in Horticulture. He joined EHA as a member in 1993.

Stephen's background includes Environmental Health Management, International Food Safety Auditing, Training, Lecturing, Horticulture and Business Management. His experience includes food safety auditing throughout Asia Pacific, food safety management at the Sydney 2000 Olympic and Paralympic Games, Sydney Royal Easter Show, Rugby World Cup and major sporting and entertainment activities at Sydney Olympic Park. Stephen has advised State and Federal Government bodies on environmental health matters and represented the profession and EHA on many key committees and working parties.

Board of Directors

Environmental Health Australia



Ron Fry MAIEH

Ron has been an Environmental Health Officer since 1986 and is employed by the Hobart City Council. He joined EHA in 1987 and was elected to the Tasmanian Branch Council in 2003. He holds a Diploma of Applied Science (Environmental Health) awarded by the Institute of TAFE Tasmania in 1996.

Ron has gained experience in the profession working with other councils in the greater Hobart area, the North West coast of Tasmania and for a short period with the Department of Health and Human Services in the area of food safety. In 1995 he joined the Institute of TAFE Tasmania where he taught a number of subjects in the current Advanced Diploma of Environmental Health course for eight years. During this time he was awarded a Bachelor of Adult Vocation and Education from the University of Tasmania. He also delivers food handler training to food business operators for the Hobart City Council.

Ron is Senior Vice President of the Tasmanian Branch of EHA.



Eric Johnson MAIEH

Eric qualified as an Environmental Health Officer in 1981 and worked for several years with the Hobart City Council before moving to the State Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). He joined EHA in the early 80s and is a current Tasmanian Branch Councillor.

Eric's duties with DHHS are centered on formulating and implementing State food policy and legislation and managing the small food safety team. He has significant day-to-day contact with Tasmanian Local Government EHOs on all matters concerning food safety and also represents the State on several national food safety forums including the Implementation Sub Committee.



Dr Thomas Tenkate FAIEH

Dr Thomas Tenkate, lecturer in environmental health at the QUT School of Public Health since 2003, the Postgraduate Course Coordinator for the public health programs and subject area coordinator for environmental health. Thomas holds a Dr PH in environmental health (specializing in occupational hygiene) from the University of Alabama, Birmingham, USA (1998) and has worked in the environmental health field since 1990, predominantly for Queensland Health (10 years). He is also actively involved with many professional organisations, particularly Environmental Health Australia, holding a number of elected and committee positions at both state and national level. Thomas is on the advisory board of the Environmental Health Journal and is the Book Review Editor. His general areas of interest are: environmental and occupational health and hygiene, human health risks of climate change, food safety, human health risk assessment, communicable diseases, environmental epidemiology, and disaster management. A continuing key research interest is human exposure and health risks from UV radiation.



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Branch Presidents

Environmental Health Australia

Executive Committee

Jim Smith (Chair)
Joseph Zappavigna
Fleur Cousins
Stephen Davidson



*NSW/ACT Branch
President (To 28
September 2007)*



*NSW/ACT Branch
President (Since 28
September 2007)*

Audit Committee

Stephen Davidson (Chair)
Nancy Cromar
Eric Johnson
Joseph Zappavigna

Graham Pares FAIEH

Graham has been the Branch President /Management Committee Chair of NSW/ACT Branch since 2002, a former Director on the EHA Board from October 2002 and National President. During that time he has served in positions on the Finance Management Committee and assisted the executive in many of the achievements of the past years.

Employed as Coordinator Environmental Health at Penrith City Council, Graham's career has included working in large rural centres and some of the largest metropolitan Councils in NSW. A country boy born and bred, Graham benefited from entering the profession through a traineeship with the local Council and is a keen advocate for the blending of educational and practical experiences.

Having previously spent several years as an environmental health consultant to local government, Graham is aware of the challenges that the shortage of qualified environmental health practitioners presents and is focused on ensuring that EHA is capable of providing the leadership necessary to address these challenges.

Shannon McKiernan MAIEH

Shannon McKiernan is currently Coordinator of Environmental Health Practitioners within Gosford City Council and has held this position since 2006. He has a Bachelor of Science in Australian Environmental Studies from Griffith University, Queensland, and has also completed a Bachelor of Health Science – Environmental Health from the Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane. Shannon joined EHA as a student member in 1998 and has continued to be actively involved.

Shannon has worked extensively in the fields of Environmental Health as well as social and environmental planning and impact assessment, having held a range of positions at Local Government levels where he was responsible for conducting projects including Brisbane City Council's Healthy Brisbane Strategy and Gold Coast City Council's Community Health Plan.

He has worked extensively with State Government in Queensland undertaking social and health impact assessment advice of regional plans and infrastructure projects e.g. South East Queensland Infrastructure Plan 2005-2026 and the Draft Translink Network Plan. Most notably he was involved in the implementation of a Health and Social Impact Assessment for the South East Queensland Regional Plan with the Statewide Health Services Planning Unit of Queensland Health involving extensive consultation and needs assessment with local communities in the region.

Shannon has also lectured in the area of social planning for the School of Social Sciences at the University of Queensland prior to moving to Gosford City Council.

Workforce and Professional Development & Certification Committee

Jim Smith (Chair)
Nancy Cromar
Thomas Tenkate
Eric Johnson
Bruce Morton

Environmental Health Course Accreditation Committee

Jim Smith (Chair)
Bruce Morton
Ron Fry
Owen Ashby
Waikay Lau
Thomas Tenkate

Human Resource Working Group

Jim Smith
Fleur Cousins (Chair)
Joseph Zappavigna
Mark Dwyer
Bernadet Ferraro

Branch Presidents

Environmental Health Australia



*Queensland Branch
President*

Virgil Kelk FAIEH

Virgil commenced work with the Queensland Department of Health as a cadet health inspector in January 1971. He has worked with Qld Health since that time and holds the position of Director of Environmental Health Services for the Darling Downs Population Health Unit based in Toowoomba. Virgil has responsibility for a wide range of environmental health issues including drugs and poisons, foods, communicable diseases and environmental toxicology. Toowoomba, the area that Virgil has responsibility for is mostly rural and remote, includes 36 local governments and covers an area that is more than half the size of New South Wales.

Virgil has a significant interest in water quality and disaster management. He has been involved in the delivery of EHA's Disaster Management for Public Health Course in Queensland since its inception in 1997 and was awarded an Excellence Award for his work in disaster management in 2005. Virgil was advanced to the status of Fellow in 2002.



*South Australian
Branch President*

Ian Hawkins MAIEH

Ian commenced work as an Environmental Health Officer with the Eastern Metropolitan Regional Health Authority in 1993 (now Eastern Health Authority). In 1999 in the 24-hour noise team in the London Borough of Southwark, (a bigger culture shift would be hard to imagine), Ian was kitted out with a stab jacket, introduced to his personal security guard and began 6 months of 13-hour shifts resolving noise complaints, working closely with colleagues, police and the courts enforcing the provisions of the UK Environment Protection Act.

Roles at the London Borough of Southwark and Westminster City Council gave him a unique insight into the foundation of public health and exposure to volumes of UK case law.

Returning to South Australia in 2002 Ian took Environmental Health positions at the City of Tea Tree Gully, Adelaide City Council & the City of Port Adelaide Enfield before his current appointment, Manager Environmental Health & General Inspectorate.

In 2006 Ian nominated for SA Branch President, a challenging and rewarding opportunity to participate in the development of best practice Environmental Health in South Australia. He is particularly keen to see Environmental Health Australia develop tools and resources for Environmental Health Professionals to assist the fulfilment of changing roles; raise the standard of practice and recognition of our profession and plan for the future of public and environmental health in our communities



*Tasmanian Branch
President*

Mark Dwyer MAIEH

Mark commenced his public health career in 1978 as a cadet health inspector with the Hobart City Council. Thirty years later he is now the Manager Environmental Health at the same council and continues to find the job exciting, challenging and stimulating. The transformation of local government in Tasmania from a sleeping dinosaur into a vibrant and competitive business over this period has certainly fuelled his enthusiasm to remain an active public health professional at 'the coalface'.

Mark's other professional interests include presiding over EHA Branch activities in Tasmania. Mark believes that there is much to accomplish and achieve for the members and EHOs alike, and it is very gratifying to be working on Branch Council with such a keen, motivated and dedicated group of people who share the same goal. His final career-orientated academic challenge is to study and qualify for the new Bachelor of Environmental Health that will soon be offered at the University of Tasmania. Mark's ambitions at this stage of his career are to maintain good health, a trim waistline, a sense of humour and the current level of enthusiasm for his career and EHA.

Branch Presidents

Environmental Health Australia



*Victorian Branch
President*

Geoff Fraser MAIEH

Geoff has 21 years local government environmental health experience across rural and metropolitan Councils, including a role as Director of Planning and Environment during Council amalgamations.

His current role is Business Unit Leader Environmental Health for the diverse municipality of Greater Dandenong and during 7 years has overseen the prosecution of some 200 cases under the Victorian Food and Health Acts and developed a team focused on regulatory compliance. Greater Dandenong has permitted great freedom in developing a team of professionals who are widely respected as having some of Australia's best Environmental Health knowledge.

In addition to the Diploma of Environmental Health, Geoff holds a Bachelor of Business Management and assists EHOs to consider "the business of food". He is always seeking development opportunities for EHOs.

Geoff lives on the beach and enjoys the beach lifestyle with wife Kirstin, son Aaron and Jack Russel Reno.



*Western Australian
and Northern
Territory Branch
President*

Darren Ponton MAIEH

Darren Ponton held the position of Environmental Health Co-ordinator, for twelve of the twenty years he worked at City of Perth in environmental health positions before moving to City of Canning in July 2007. He is EHA WA/NT Branch President, Chairperson of the National FoodSafe® Committee, and former Food Safety Special Interest Group Convenor in WA. Through his employment at City of Perth he is currently a member of the Local Health Authorities Analytical Committee and Perth City Alcohol Accord. As well as a Degree in Environmental Health, his qualifications include an MBA in Health Services Administration, and Graduate Diplomas in Public Health, Health Administration and Public Sector Management.

Darren started as a student member of EHA in 1984, and progressed through Associate to full Membership. He became a State Councillor for a period in the early 1990s, returning in 2004, becoming Branch Vice President in 2005 and President of the WA/NT Branch at its Branch General Meeting in May 2006.



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Management and Staff

Environmental Health Australia



*Chief Executive
Officer and
Company Secretary*

Waikay Lau MAIEH

Prior to joining EHA Waikay was recruited by Dow Jones to manage the circulation marketing of The Asian Wall Street Journal in Asia-Pacific. Based in Hong Kong his role included the development of regional and country-specific marketing programs as well as establishing partnership agreements with multi-national corporations. Waikay advanced quickly to become The Asian Wall Street Journal's Country Manager for Taiwan where he established and headed the country's business operations. Soon after he was promoted to Regional Circulation Manager overseeing the sales and marketing of the business daily in Greater China; China, Hong Kong and Taiwan. In 1999 Waikay joined WSJ.com (Wall Street Journal Online) as the Marketing & Circulation Director for the Asia-Pacific region, reporting directly to the Dow Jones headquarters in New York. His responsibility included brand building, marketing, promotions, and product sales in over 13 Asia-Pacific countries.

In 2001 Waikay and his family returned to Australia for a quieter life to raise their children. Waikay has a BSc Environmental Studies from Griffith University and an MBA in International Management and enjoys his volunteer work with WWF and the Heart Foundation. He is very much involved with his daughter's primary school and is the President of the P&C Committee.

National Finance Officer

Bernadet Ferraro

Executive Officers

*Margaret Hind, New South
Wales/Australian Capital
Territory*

Jo Rolls, Queensland

Mina Labaz, South Australia

*Bernadet Ferraro, Victoria and
Tasmania*

*Jackie Breasley, Western
Australia/Northern Territory
(To 14 March 2008)*

*Valarie Filevski, Western
Australia/Northern Territory
(Since 14 April 2008)*

Management and Staff

Environmental Health Australia

Environmental Health Journal

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Dr Thomas Tenkate, Queensland University of Technology
Jan Bowman, Department of Human Services, Victoria
Dr Ron Pickett, Curtin University
Bruce Morton, Director, EHA
Waikay Lau, Chief Executive Officer, EHA

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Glenda Verrinder, La Trobe University, Bendigo
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Environmental Health Australia as at June 2008

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Email: wa@eh.org.au

For a current listing of EHA Directors, management and staff, and current contact details please refer to www.eh.org.au

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- Contamination of Food
- Temperature Control
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- Food Receipt
- Food Storage
- Food Processing
- Food Display
- Food Packaging
- Food Transportation
- Food Disposal
- Food Recall
- Health of Persons Who Handle Food
- Hygiene of Food Handlers
- General Duties of Food Businesses
- Cleanliness
- Cleaning and Sanitising of Specific Equipment
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- Temperature Measuring Devices
- Single Use Items
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Corporate Reports

Environmental Health Australia National President

The last twelve months was an important time for the organisation in a number of ways. In the first instance it was important from the international perspective as in May, we were the host of the International Federation of Environmental Health 10th World Congress on Environmental Health. The Congress was held in Brisbane and the planning for the event was undertaken over a three to four year period and required a great deal of work on the part of the International Organising Committee under the chairmanship of Dr Peter Davey. The feedback on the event from both our international and domestic colleagues was extremely pleasing and indicated that the right balance was struck in relation to relevance and content.

In addition to the Congress, the International Federation of Environmental Health Council meeting was conducted and it afforded the Australian delegates Fleur Cousins, Peter Davey and I to be informed by, and contribute to, the discussions around the common problems experienced by members associated with the environmental health workforce, education and practice. Two specific initiatives that involve EHA have come from this meeting. The first is we are working with the Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland (REHIS) and our New Zealand colleagues on the development of a reciprocity agreement between the countries for environmental health officers. The second initiative is working with the Environmental Health Officers Association of Ireland on the development of an emergency management course in Ireland. The International Faculty Forum was also conducted and Dr Nancy Cromar, a director of EHA, is now the Chair of this Forum. There was much discussion on environmental health education and the development common core elements of environmental health courses.

Other important initiatives were concerned with workforce and professional development. EHA was successful in obtaining project funding from Queensland Health to develop a Local Government Environmental Health Workforce Resource for the Management of Organizational Risk. This project is currently being undertaken and will provide risk management guidance on the employment of local government environmental health staff. This Project is linked to initiatives contained within the Environmental Health Committee (enHealth) Work Plan 2007-2008.

In terms of professional development initiatives, the Continuous Professional Development (CPD) policy and the Certified Environmental Health Practitioner (CEHP) and Certified Environmental Health Technician (CEHT) Schemes were launched at the World Congress. These initiatives have been in the planning for some time and it was pleasing to see the development stage completed and the implementation phase begin. It is intended that the CPD policy will be in place in September 2008 and the CEHP rolled out in early 2009. Both the CPD policy and the CEHP/CEHT Schemes provide the basis for the development of environmental health workforce quality, and puts environmental health practitioners on a similar footing to that of other health professionals. The continued publication of our peer reviewed journal and the ongoing accreditation of environmental health officer university training programs throughout the year have also contributed to the professional standing of EHA and its practitioner members.

The other highlight of the year was the name change of the organisation to Environmental Health Australia. This announcement at the World Congress signaled a renewed commitment to develop EHA into the premier Australian environmental health professional organisation.

I take this opportunity to sincerely thank my colleagues on the Board, Branch Councils, Regional Groups and Special Interest Groups around Australia for their time and commitment to EHA and the environmental health profession. I also wish to acknowledge and thank our staff led by Mr Waikay Lau, our Chief Executive Officer, for their wonderful support, hard work and loyalty.

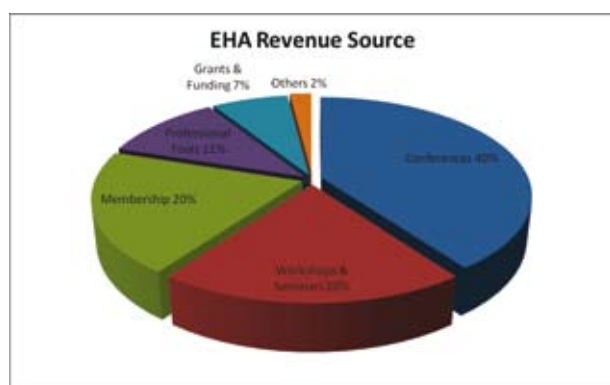
Jim Smith Dr PH LFAIEH
NATIONAL PRESIDENT

Corporate Reports

Environmental Health Australia Chief Executive Officer

Environmental Health Australia (EHA) began the financial year with the Environmental Health Workforce Summit in Brisbane in July 2007 with more than 90 high level delegates attending the two day Summit. EHA ended the year with a spectacular world class event, the IFEH 10th World Congress on Environmental Health where in excess of 600 delegates from more than 40 countries attended the week-long event. In between, our organisation rebranded with a new logo and name, introduced the Continuing Professional Development Program and the Certified Environmental Health Practitioner / Technician Schemes and we were successful in procuring funding from both the Federal and State Governments for 5 different projects. Each Branch held successful workshops, seminars and conferences and our combined efforts once again returned a profit for EHA for the fifth consecutive year. I am delighted to announce a profit of \$91,385 based on an income of \$1.3 million.

EHA, unlike other 'not for profit' organisations, does not rely on government funding for its day to day operations. The majority of EHA's income is derived from Conferences followed by Membership, Workshops and Seminars with Grants only accounting for approx 7% of EHA's income, hence the need for EHA to continually produce a surplus each year.



The surplus each year is accumulated and reinvested back into the organisation. As an example the Board has earmarked a number of priority projects for the next three to five years, namely:

1. EHO Course Accreditation Policy
2. Internal Faculty Forum Program
3. Environmental Health Journal, Special Issues and Monographs
4. Student and young professional mentoring and menteeing program
5. CPD and CEHP/CEHT Schemes
6. Professionalization of EHA Courses

The name 'Not for profit' is a misconception. A more suitable name would be 'Not for dividend' as after all, it is the accumulated profits that will go towards funding these projects. In addition, our accumulated profits have also allowed us to host a world class Congress in Brisbane earlier this year in May, rebrand and relaunch our organisation, redesign our website and develop the recently launched FoodSafe® Online.

We look to the future and more projects on the horizon as we continue to expand and improve our membership benefits and services. EHA will always strive for profitable returns so that money can be reinvested to further grow our organisation. In the interests of taking care of our environment and natural resources, Annual Reports 2009 onwards will be published online, available to all members. A limited number of hard copies will be made available to those members who advise that online is not a suitable option for them.

In closing, it is through our dedicated staff, our members, Branch Presidents, Directors and a host of committed member volunteers that EHA is continuing to grow. Our sponsors and supporters also play a vital role, and it is with much thanks and appreciation that we acknowledge these people as we persist with our tasks at hand.

Waikay Lau MAIEH

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER & COMPANY SECRETARY

Corporate Reports

Environmental Health Australia Audit Committee Report

The Audit Committee is an Advisory Committee of the Board of Directors that assists the Directors and EHA Management in fulfilling their responsibilities in relation to accounting and reporting practices, management of risk, maintenance of internal controls, operation of good governance practices and facilitation of sound organisational ethics.

The Committee does not have any management functions or independent authority. The committee operates independently of management and is therefore objective in relation to EHA operations. The Committee provides recommendations to the Board and/or the Chief Executive Officer as necessary.

During the reporting period the audit committee continued its review of the business risk management framework in place across EHA, including, but not limited to:

- management of operational events that could prevent the business from achieving its objectives or realising opportunities.
- compliance with legal and regulatory obligations.
- accuracy of financial records and reporting.

As part of the audit committee's on-going risk assessment across EHA the Audit committee undertook the following reviews during the reporting period:

- Asset tracking review
- Internal control audit of the WA/NT Branch office
- Company risk profile review

The audit committee is satisfied that EHA is effectively monitoring and acting upon its business risks (including compliance and internal controls) to ensure:

- the effective and efficient operation of all significant business processes

- current and emerging keys risks are identified and effectively managed; and
- identified breaches of legal compliance and internal control matters are being reported and acted upon (through the company secretary and ultimately to the audit committee).

The audit committee is satisfied with the management of key operational risks facing the business, including the effectiveness of internal controls. The audit committee will continue to review and monitor the implementation of key recommendations and management action plans.

Stephen Davidson FAIEH

AUDIT COMMITTEE CHAIR

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Corporate Reports

Environmental Health Australia *Environmental Health Journal Report*

In the last twelve months three electronic issues of *Environmental Health* have been published and posted on the website as required under the contract. Contributions to the Journal have been steady throughout the year and the breakdown is as follows:

- Research and Theory 11 papers
- Practice, Policy and Law 6 papers
- Reports and Reviews 6 reviews
- Congress articles 4 articles

In addition to the three general issues a special issue on Environmental Health, Climate Change and Sustainability was published under the editorship of Dr Thomas Tenkate. This special issue contained 9 research and theory papers, and 2 reports and reviews.

With the name change to Environmental Health Australia (EHA) and subsequent re-branding, the Journal will also undergo a complementary re-branding as from the first issue in the new financial year. Planning has commenced on the review of the Journal's governance structure which is planned for completion at beginning of the calendar year (2009).

I wish to acknowledge the efforts of Jaclyn Huntley, Heather Gardner, Thomas Tenkate and Wendy Ealey who have managed the production and quality control of the Journal. I also take the opportunity to thank all our reviewers who have taken on the bulk of manuscript reviews and contributed to the standing of the Journal this past year.

Dr Jim Smith LFAIEH

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Corporate Reports

EHA Environmental Health Course Accreditation Committee

The role of the Course Accreditation Subcommittee is, on behalf of the Board, to receive and assess applications for accreditation of university undergraduate and postgraduate Environmental Health Officer qualification courses. Applications for accreditation are assessed against EHA's Environmental Health Course Accreditation Policy.

As can be seen the Committee undertook the following accreditation assessments. It should be noted that a degree course is now in place in Tasmania for the first time and this course has undergone accreditation

Date of Accreditation	Applicant	Course
September 2007	University of Tasmania	Bachelor of Health Science (Environmental Health)
October 2007	QUT	Graduate Diploma in Environmental Health

The accreditation policy has been accepted and used by the Western Australian Environmental Health Officers Professional Review Board for assessing the qualifications of EHOs outside Western Australia. Accreditation of Western Australian programs is done in conjunction with the Board.

I would like to extend a sincere thank you to the members of the Committee; Owen Ashby, Bruce Morton, Ron Fry, Thomas Tenkate, Nancy Cromar, and Waikay Lau.

Dr Jim Smith LFAIEH

CHAIR

Corporate Reports

EHA Annual Educators Forum/International Faculty Forum

In 2008, the EHA Educators Forum was combined with an International Faculty Forum (IFF) as a satellite to the main IFEH Congress in Brisbane. The meeting took place on Sun 11 May at Griffith University from 9-4pm.

As host country, Australia was charged with taking over the Chair of the IFF for the next two years until the World Congress in Canada in 2010. Following a welcome from the newly elected President of IFEH, Bernard Forteach, I accepted the ceremonial gavel on behalf of my Australian academic colleagues, from Dublin who were hosts from 2006-2008. On a personal note, I would like to thank Barbara Delaney and her academic colleagues at Dublin Institute of Technology for their untiring effort over the last two years in progressing a range of issues of interest to the academic community across the globe.

Attendance at the IFF measured in numbers was reasonable, but sadly the diversity of countries present at the World Congress was not represented at the IFF, with minimal attendance from academics outside of Australia and UK. This was unfortunate since the Forum was keen to explore and gain international perspective on two important lines of discussion at the meeting:

- (i) issues related to EH workforce and education and
- (ii) assessment of whether it was possible to develop some agreement on what constitutes EH Practice around the world with a view to sharing ideas on curriculum and possibly reciprocity of qualifications.

Two papers were given on workforce issues and related education matters from Australian academics (Tenkate and Cromar) and these were followed by two papers from CIEH staff (Tony Lewis and Paul Robinson) and a colleague at Birmingham University (Maurice Brennan) on curriculum. These presentations are available for downloading online from the IFEH website www.ifeh2008.org by clicking on 'Congress Publications' followed by 'Faculty Forum'.

After lunch a session on common themes in EH curriculum was chaired by Steve Konkel (a US academic on sabbatical in Dublin). This session, which was followed by a second break-out session of a smaller group the following afternoon, attempted to gain some consensus on core curriculum across countries by those present. In principle the aim of

gaining agreement on curriculum internationally is a very laudable one, and encouragingly, much useful work ensued, particularly at the smaller group meeting. With such a small and unrepresentative group from the wider international community present, however, it remains to be seen whether it is feasible to devise a curriculum with enough common ground, but retaining sufficient diversity to ensure that it represents the needs of the international community rather than only selected aspects of that community.

The understanding of the current IFF Chair is that to progress the issue further a paper is being drafted by the authors of the original presentations (Lewis and Robinson from CIEH with Brennan from Birmingham University and Steve Konkel from Kentucky) which will attempt to summarise the work that took place at Brisbane in addition to outlining the author's original thinking. If this paper, and the ideas it contains, is to gain the support of the full international academic community and wider IFEH population, the Chair would suggest it must be the subject of worldwide circulation and vigorous debate and scrutiny over the next year or so, since the size of the audience at Brisbane did not allow this to occur. We must be confident that the interests and needs of all EH professionals (including academics) around the globe are being served by any proposal which gains acceptance from the IFEH secretariat on behalf of the wider EH community.

I would like to thank my academic colleagues Thomas Tenkate and Dean Bertolatti for their sterling work in presenting papers and chairing sessions and generally assisting to make the Faculty Forum a memorable event.

I look forward to meeting with international colleagues in Vancouver in 2010 and trust that there will be a more widespread representation of academic staff there from across the globe to continue to wrestle with the important EH education issues which face academics and others into the future.

Prof Nancy Cromar

*CHAIR OF INTERNATIONAL FACULTY FORUM
2008-2010*



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Corporate Reports

IFEH 10th World Congress

The IFEH 10th World Congress on Environmental Health held in Brisbane May 11 – 16 2008 was a spectacular event. The 6 day Congress attracted over 600 delegates daily representing more than 50 countries worldwide. The Opening Ceremony was a highlight of the Congress with the flag bearing ceremony incorporating the MacGregor Primary School Senior Choir serenading the audience with three beautiful songs, followed by traditional dances from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island dancing troupes. From here, the Congress just got better. The excellent academic and social program met the needs of all international and local delegates. At the Closing Ceremony delegates showed commitment to the outcomes of the congress by the symbolic signing of the Congress 'Brisbane Charter'. Participants collectively demonstrated their commitment by joining in the singing of the 'Congress Song'.

To organise a World Congress involves the work of many dedicated people. The Congress planning commenced more than 8 years ago with concentrated implementation in the past 2 years. I was involved from the beginning bids with initial meetings in Perth when the AIEH Queensland Branch out-bid the Western Australia Branch in 2001 to bid for the IFEH 2008 Congress in Brisbane; after which I travelled to the 2002 San Diego IFEH Congress as the AIEH International representative. Finally, after presentations to the IFEH BOD, Australia won the rights to host the Brisbane Congress (up against the Canadian Health Inspectors Association! who are of course hosting the 2010 IFEH Congress in Vancouver). From there I travelled to IFEH Congresses in South Africa and Dublin to promote the Brisbane event.

As Chair of the IOC, I personally would like to thank our local team, Waikay Lau our CEO, Bruce Morton (Immediate Past President EHA who did much of the early Congress preparation), Thomas Tenkate (EHA Director, who finalised the academic papers), Jo Rolls (Qld Branch Executive Officer), Cordia Chu (IOC), Virgil Kelk (Qld Branch President) and other Queensland Branch Members Alison Bray, John Cohan, Kel Irwin, Brett Robinson, Belinda Davies and Sophie Sandberg, and members Mal Crabtree and Paul Endres. I also appreciate the support of the IFEH Council and Board of Directors represented by President Colm Smyth and current EHA Board of Directors represented by President Jim Smith, Joe Zappavigna, Fleur Cousins,

Stephen Davidson, Ron Fry, Eric Johnson, Nancy Cromar, Thomas Tenkate and EHA Executive Officers. The Congress also made a healthy surplus, which will enable EHA to continue its important professional body work in the coming years. I would like to thank our sponsors who participated in the many congress activities - their full participation ensured the success of the Congress.

At the Congress I was elected Chair of the Asia and Pacific Regional Group of IFEH and now sit on the BOD of IFEH, in this capacity I hope to implement the outcomes of the Congress documented in the 'draft IFEH Brisbane Congress Charter' which will be ratified this year by IFEH; and requires implementation across the globe with a focus on the environmental health needs of children, our future...THANK YOU to everyone particularly the participants who made this Congress a great success and see you all in Vancouver, Canada in 2010.

Dr Peter J Davey FAIEH

IFEH COUNCIL DIRECTOR

CHAIR OF THE IFEH 10TH WORLD CONGRESS ON ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH IN BRISBANE 2008

Corporate Reports

IFEH 2008 World Congress Regional Asia Pacific Group

REPORT by Chair of the Asia and Pacific Regional Group on THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH 2008

In May this year at the IFEH Congress in Brisbane I was elected Chair of the Asia and Pacific Regional Group. The IFEH has several Regional Groups including Africa, The Americas, Europe (EFEH), Asia & Pacific (AP) and Middle East. The Chairs of the Regional Groups also sit on the Board of Directors of IFEH. In general, the Federation works to disseminate knowledge via the Groups concerning environmental health and promote co-operation between countries where environmental health issues are transboundary. It promotes the interchange of people working in these regions and the exchange of Member's publications of a scientific and technical nature. Amongst other things, the Federation seeks to provide means of exchanging information and experience on environmental health, to hold Congresses and meetings to discuss subjects relevant to environmental health science and administration, to represent the interests of environmental health to state agencies, national governments and international organisations and to promote field studies of environmental health control. The Federation is an organisation whose full members are national associations representing the interests of environmental health professionals throughout the World. EHA is a full country member of IFEH.

Other organisations across our region with an interest in environmental health may become associate members. Organisations involved in the educational field (for instance Universities training environmental health professionals) are eligible to become Academic Associate Members. Currently Griffith University, Hong Kong Institute and Ngee Ann Polytechnic Singapore are members. Other bodies with an interest in environmental health (such as regional associations, NGOs, etc) may become Associate Members. Individual persons may show their support for the Federation by becoming an Individual Associate Member. Persons who are successful in applying to join this category of associate membership will be kept up to date with IFEH news and will receive periodically any documents issued by the Federation. Individual Associate Members may participate in Federation activities but have no voting rights.

The IFEH Regional Groups are responsible to the Federation Council, but have representation from regional member associations. The Asia and Pacific Regional Group is represented by Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore, Sri Lanka and recently Indonesia has applied to join. Each year a Regional Group member hosts a regional seminar or workshop. For example in 2005 the MEHA ran a Dengue Fever Workshop. I was invited as AP Regional Group Chair in June and July this year to travel to Jakarta to assist the newly incorporated Indonesia Environmental Health Specialist Association (EHSA) to develop its agenda including the Inaugural EH Meeting in Surabaya from 11-14 December 2008, this event will discuss local and international environmental health issues linked with university and practitioner accreditation. In June next year the SSOEH will host the IFEH Annual Board of Directors meeting.

Dr Peter J Davey FAIEH

CHAIR OF THE ASIA AND PACIFIC REGIONAL GROUP

IFEH 2008 WORLD CONGRESS COMMITTEE

Dr Peter Davey (Chair)
Dr Thomas Tenkate
Waikay Lau
Jo Rolls
Bruce Morton
Alison Bray
Virgil Kelk

Directors' Report

Environmental Health Australia

Your directors present their report on the company for the financial year ended 30th June 2008.

DIRECTORS

The names of the directors in office at any time during, or since the end of, the year are:

Fleur Cousins, Nancy Cromar, Steve Davidson, Ron Fry, Eric Johnson, Bruce Morton, Jim Smith, Thomas Tenkate (appointed 27/2/2008) and Joe Zappavigna.

Directors have been in office since the start of the financial year to the date of this report unless otherwise stated.

MEETINGS OF DIRECTORS

During the financial year, four (4) meetings of directors were held. Attendances by each director during the year were as follows:

	<i>Number Eligible to Attend</i>	<i>Number Attended</i>
Fleur Cousins	4	2
Nancy Cromar	4	0
Steve Davidson	4	3
Ron Fry	4	4
Eric Johnson	4	3
Bruce Morton	4	2
Jim Smith	4	4
Thomas Tenkate	1	1
Joe Zappavigna	4	4

As the company is limited by guarantee, no shares are issued and hence none are held by directors.

The profit of the company for the financial year after providing for income tax amounted to \$91,385.

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

The principal activities of the company during the financial year were to promote and encourage the interest and practice of environmental health, to disseminate knowledge regarding environmental health and to uphold the status and protect the interest of those persons entitled under law to occupy the position of environmental health officer.

DIVIDENDS

No dividends have been paid or declared since the commencement of the financial period and the directors do not recommend the payment of a dividend in respect of the year ended 30th June 2008.

REVIEW OF OPERATIONS

Operating revenue for the year amounting to \$1,294,880 (2007 \$1,296,422) resulted in a surplus of \$16,611 (2007 \$(23,475)).

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN STATE OF AFFAIRS

There were no significant changes in the company's affairs other than those mentioned in this report or the financial statements or notes thereto.

Directors' Report

Environmental Health Australia

AFTER BALANCE DAY EVENTS

No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year which significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the company, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the company in future financial years.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

Likely developments in the operations of the company and the expected results of those operations in future financial years have not been included in this report as the inclusion of such information is likely to result in unreasonable prejudice to the company.

INDEMNIFYING OFFICERS OR AUDITOR

No indemnities have been given or insurance premiums paid, during or since the end of the financial year, for any person who is or has been an officer or auditor of the company.

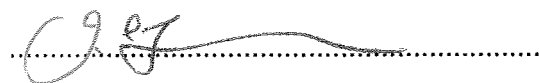
DIRECTORS' BENEFIT

During or since the financial year, other than as annual honorariums as disclosed in the Income Statement, no director of the company has received or become entitled to receive a benefit because of a contract that the director or a firm of which the director is a member or an entity in which the director has a substantial financial interest made with the company or an entity that the company controlled, or a body corporate that was related to the company, when the contract was made or when the director received, or became entitled to receive, the benefit.

AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION

The auditor's independence declaration for the year ended 30th June 2008 has been received and can be found on the page following the Directors' Report.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors:



Director

Dated this 22nd day of October 2008

Independent Audit Report

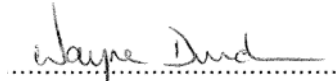
Environmental Health Australia

AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION UNDER SECTION 307C OF THE CORPORATIONS ACT 2001 TO THE DIRECTORS OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AUSTRALIA LIMITED

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30th June 2008 there have been:

- (i) no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in the *Corporations Act 2001* in relation to the audit; and
- (ii) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

E. F. McPHAIL AND PARTNERS



Partner: Wayne C. Durdin

Dated 24th October 2008

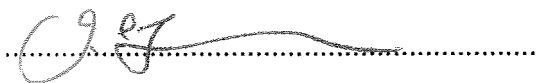
38 Ellingworth Parade, Box Hill, Victoria, 3128

DIRECTORS' DECLARATION

The directors of the company declare that:

1. the financial statements and notes, as set out in this report, are in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001 and
 - (a) comply with Accounting Standards and the Corporations Regulations 2001; and
 - (b) give a true and fair view of the financial position as at 30th June 2008 and of the performance for the year ended on that date of the company;
2. the Chief Executive Officer and National Finance Officer have each declared that:
 - (a) the financial records of the company for the financial year have been properly maintained in accordance with Section 286 of the Corporations Act 2001;
 - (b) the financial statements and notes for the financial year comply with the Accounting Standards; and
 - (c) the financial statements and notes for the financial year give a true and fair view;
3. in the directors' opinion there are reasonable grounds to believe that the company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors.



Director:

Dated this 22nd day of October 2008

Statement of Financial Position

Environmental Health Australia

INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2008

	Note	2008 \$	2007 \$
Revenue	2	1,369,654	1,376,181
Staffing costs		(343,585)	(308,370)
Occupancy costs		(35,027)	(25,877)
Administrative costs		(430,778)	(384,750)
Conferences, seminars and workshop costs		(378,012)	(478,485)
Cost of goods sold	3(a)	(80,920)	(113,205)
Depreciation and amortisation		(9,947)	(9,210)
Profit before income tax expense		91,385	56,284
Income tax expense	4	–	–
Net profit		\$91,385	\$56,284

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30TH JUNE 2008

	Note	2008 \$	2007 \$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	6	379,991	416,344
Trade & other receivables	7	284,414	129,034
Inventories	8	20,578	31,842
Other current assets	9	17,286	72,424
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		720,269	649,644
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Trade & other receivables	10	–	–
Financial assets	11	13,742	15,296
Property, plant and equipment	12	85,914	90,764
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		99,656	106,060
TOTAL ASSETS		819,925	755,704
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade & other payables	13	135,833	104,399
Unearned revenue		173,650	239,081
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		309,483	343,480
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Long-term provisions	14	41,209	31,482
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		41,209	31,482
TOTAL LIABILITIES		350,692	374,962
NET ASSETS		469,233	\$380,742
EQUITY			
Asset revaluation reserves		40,000	40,000
Retained earnings	15	431,065	339,680
Financial asset revaluation reserve		(1,832)	1,062
TOTAL EQUITY		469,233	\$380,742

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Statement of Financial Position

Environmental Health Australia

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2008

	Retained Earnings	Asset Revaluation Reserve	Financial Asset Revaluation Reserve
Balance as at 1st July 2006	\$283,396	\$40,000	\$1,120
Profit attributable to members	56,284	-	-
Revaluation increment	-	-	(58)
Balance at 30th June 2007	339,680	40,000	1,062
Profit attributable to members	91,385	-	-
Revaluation increment	-	-	(2,894)
Balance at 30th June 2008	\$431,065	\$40,000	\$(1,832)

CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2008

	Note	2008 \$	2007 \$
CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Receipts from members and others		1,124,750	1,368,546
Interest received		24,093	15,291
Payments to suppliers and employees		(1,162,100)	(1,308,144)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	20	(13,257)	75,693
CASH FLOW FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Purchase of property, plant & equipment		(5,096)	(1,853)
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		(5,096)	(1,853)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held		(18,353)	73,840
Cash at beginning of year		416,344	342,504
Cash at end of year	6	\$397,991	\$416,344

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Statement of Financial Position

Environmental Health Australia

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

1. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial report includes the financial statements and notes of Environmental Health Australia Limited as an individual entity.

Basis of Preparation

The financial report is a general purpose financial report that has been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, Australian Accounting Interpretations, other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board and the *Corporations Act 2001*.

Australian Accounting Standards set out accounting policies that the AASB has concluded would result in a financial report containing relevant and reliable information about transactions, events and conditions to which they apply. Compliance with Australian Accounting Standards ensures that the financial statements and notes also comply with International Financial Reporting Standards. Material accounting policies adopted in the preparation of this financial report are presented below. They have been consistently applied unless otherwise stated.

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historical costs, modified, where applicable, by the measurement at fair value of selected non-current assets, financial assets and financial liabilities.

Accounting Policies

(a) Income Tax

The company is not liable for taxation on items of member income and expenditure which are not subject to tax consistent with the doctrine of mutuality.

The company adopts the liability method of tax-effect accounting whereby the income tax expense shown in the statement of financial performance is based on the operating surplus before income tax adjusted for any permanent differences. The adoption of this policy normally results in the existence of a deferred income tax liability or a future income tax benefit.

In addition, future income tax benefits relating to timing differences have not been included in the financial report because realisation of those benefits is not virtually certain. The value of future income tax benefits not brought to account relating to timing differences has not been quantified as the value of the future benefit is dependent upon the proportion of future non-member activities undertaken by the company.

(b) Inventories

Inventories are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

(c) Property, Plant and Equipment

Each class of property, plant and equipment is carried at cost or fair value less, as indicated, less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

The assets carrying amount is written down immediately to its recoverable amount, if the assets carrying amount is greater than its recoverable amount.

Depreciation

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets, but excluding freehold land, is depreciated on a straight line basis over their useful lives to the company commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

Statement of Financial Position

Environmental Health Australia

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

The depreciation rates and methods used for each class of depreciable assets are:

Class of Fixed Asset	Depreciation Rate	Depreciation Method
Office Premises	2.5%	Straight Line
Office Equipment	11% to 40%	Diminishing & Straight Line
Leased Office Equipment	33%	Straight Line

(d) Cash & Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand and in at call deposits with banks or financial institutions, and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

(e) Employee Benefits

Provision is made for the company's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to balance date. Employee benefits that are expected to be settled within one year have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled. Employee benefits payable later than one year have been measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made for those benefits.

(f) Revenue Recognition

Membership Income

Revenue from membership fees is recognised progressively over the period to which the membership relates. Membership fees are levied on a financial year basis. The portion of membership fees received that relates to the following financial year is brought to account at balance date as membership fees received in advance (unearned revenue liability).

Conference and Seminars Income

Conference and seminars income are recognised as income and expenditure when the event is held. Any income received and expenditure incurred prior to the holding of the event are brought to account as income in advance (unearned revenue liability) and prepayments (other current assets) respectively.

Grant Income

Grant income is brought to account as income in the year in which the grant is received or receivable to the extent of the expenditure which occurred during the year towards the purpose of the grant. Unexpended grant monies for grant income received or receivable during the year, including interest thereon where required under terms of the grant, are carried forward as unexpended grants (unearned revenue liability).

Sales and Other Revenue

Sales and other revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration or contributions received or receivable and is recognised when the related goods or services have been provided and the income earned.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

(g) Leases

Lease payments for operating leases, where substantially all the risks and benefits remain with the lessor, are charged as expenses in the periods in which they are incurred.

Statement of Financial Position

Environmental Health Australia

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

(h) Financial Instruments

Recognition and Initial Measurement

Financial instruments are initially measured at fair value plus transaction costs where the instrument is not classified as at fair value through profit or loss. Transaction costs related to instruments classified as at fair value through profit or loss are expensed to profit or loss immediately. Financial instruments are classified and measured as set out below.

Fair Value

Fair value is determined based on current bid prices for all quoted investments. Valuation techniques are applied to determine the fair value for all unlisted securities, including recent arm's length transactions, reference to similar instruments and option pricing models.

Impairment

At each reporting date, the company assesses whether there is objective evidence that a financial instrument has been impaired. In the case of available-for-sale financial instruments, a prolonged decline in the value of the instrument is considered to determine whether an impairment has arisen. Impairment losses are recognised in the income statement.

(i) Impairment of Assets

At each reporting date, the company reviews the carrying values of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use, is compared to the asset's carrying value. Any excess of the asset's carrying value over its recoverable amount is expensed to the income statement.

Where it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, the company estimates the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs.

(j) Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office. In these circumstances, the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the Balance Sheet are shown inclusive of GST.

(k) Comparative Figures

When required by Accounting Standards, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform to changes in presentation for the current financial year.

(l) Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgments

The directors evaluate estimates and judgments incorporated into the financial report based on historical knowledge and best available current information. Estimates assume a reasonable expectation of future events and are based on current trends and economic data, obtained both externally and within the company.

Key estimates – Impairment

The company assesses impairment at each reporting date by evaluating conditions specific to the group that may lead to impairment of assets. Where an impairment trigger exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is determined. Value-in-use calculations performed in assessing recoverable amounts incorporate a number of key estimates.

Statement of Financial Position

Environmental Health Australia

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

	2008	2007
	\$	\$
2. REVENUE		
<i>Operating Activities:</i>		
Sales revenue	151,539	221,477
Annual subscriptions and fees	264,480	268,692
Grant income	92,000	96,009
Conferences and seminars	786,861	710,244
	<u>1,294,880</u>	<u>1,296,422</u>
<i>Non-Operating Activities:</i>		
Interest received	24,093	15,291
Distributions received	1,340	2,120
Rent Received	14,711	-
Other	34,630	62,348
	<u>74,774</u>	<u>79,759</u>
TOTAL REVENUE	<u>\$1,369,654</u>	<u>\$1,376,181</u>
3. PROFIT FOR THE YEAR		
<i>(a) Expenses</i>		
Cost of Sales	<u>80,921</u>	<u>\$113,205</u>
Rental expense on operating leases:		
– Minimum lease payments	<u>–</u>	<u>\$1,354</u>
<i>(b) Significant revenues and expenses</i>		
The following significant revenue and expense items are relevant in explaining the financial performance:		
Conference and seminar activities:		
– revenue	785,320	710,244
– expenditure	(378,012)	(478,485)
Contribution to operating profit	<u>\$407,308</u>	<u>\$231,759</u>

Statement of Financial Position

Environmental Health Australia

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

	2008	2007
	\$	\$
4. INCOME TAX EXPENSE		
Prima facie tax on profit from ordinary activities before income tax at 30% (2007: 30%)	27,415	16,885
Add/(Subtract) tax effect of:		
– Member expenses not deductible	177,424	158,022
– Other non-deductible expenditure items	15,028	7,350
– Member income not assessable	(191,466)	(166,322)
– Other deductible expenditure items	(2,984)	(2,763)
– Prior year tax losses brought to account	(25,417)	(13,172)
Income tax expense attributable to operating result	<u>–</u>	<u>–</u>
5. AUDITOR'S REMUNERATION		
Remuneration of the auditor for:		
– Auditing or reviewing the financial report	9,038	9,520
– Acquittals and workers' compensation	1,625	1,495
– Preparation of annual financial report	2,000	2,000
– Taxation services	800	800
	<u>\$13,463</u>	<u>\$13,815</u>
6. CASH & CASH EQUIVALENTS		
Cash at bank and in hand	98,031	230,406
Short term bank deposits	299,960	185,938
	<u>\$397,991</u>	<u>\$416,344</u>
7. TRADE & OTHER RECEIVABLES		
CURRENT		
Trade receivables	288,273	132,893
Provision for impairment of receivables	(3,859)	(3,859)
	<u>\$284,414</u>	<u>\$129,034</u>
8. INVENTORIES		
CURRENT		
At Cost		
Merchandise held for resale	<u>\$20,578</u>	<u>\$31,842</u>
9. OTHER ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Conference prepayments	–	29,562
Prepayments	17,286	42,862
	<u>\$17,286</u>	<u>\$72,424</u>

Statement of Financial Position

Environmental Health Australia

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

	2008 \$	2007 \$
10. TRADE & OTHER RECEIVABLES		
NON-CURRENT		
Conference prepayments	—	—
11. FINANCIAL ASSETS		
Unlisted investments at fair value	\$13,742	\$15,296
12. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT		
Office premises – at deemed cost (Note 12b)	100,000	100,000
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(22,500)	(20,000)
	<u>77,500</u>	<u>80,000</u>
Plant & equipment – at cost	74,861	97,821
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(66,447)	(87,057)
	<u>8,414</u>	<u>10,764</u>
Total property, plant and equipment	<u>\$85,914</u>	<u>\$90,764</u>

(a) Movements in Carrying Amounts

Movement in the carrying amounts for each class of property, plant and equipment between the beginning and the end of the current financial year.

	2008 Office Premises	2008 Plant Equipment	2008 TOTAL
Balance at beginning of year	80,000	10,764	90,764
Additions	—	5,097	5,097
Disposals/write-offs	—	—	—
Depreciation expense	(2,500)	(7,447)	(9,947)
Carrying amount at the end of the year	<u>\$77,500</u>	<u>\$8,414</u>	<u>\$85,914</u>

(b) Office Premises Valuation

A directors' valuation of office premises was undertaken as at 2nd May 2007. The valuation was based on the market value of similar office premises within the area. The valuation has been disclosed for information purposes only. Office premises continue to be recognised in the financial report at deemed cost. The directors' valuation as at 2nd May 2007 was \$175,000 GST inclusive.

Statement of Financial Position

Environmental Health Australia

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

	2008	2007
	\$	\$
13. TRADE & OTHER PAYABLES		
CURRENT		
<i>Unsecured Liabilities:</i>		
Trade payables	39,282	39,271
Sundry payables & accrued expenses	29,572	28,569
Employee benefits	66,979	36,559
	<u>\$135,833</u>	<u>\$104,399</u>
14. PROVISIONS		
	Long-Term	
	Employee Benefits	
Opening balance at 1st July 2007	31,482	30,177
Additional provisions raised during the year	9,727	1,305
Amounts used	–	–
Balance at 30th June 2008	<u>\$41,209</u>	<u>\$31,482</u>
Analysis of total provisions:		
Current	33,721	26,482
Non-current	7,488	5,000
Total Provisions	<u>\$41,209</u>	<u>\$31,482</u>
15. RETAINED EARNINGS		
Retained profit at the beginning of the year	339,680	283,396
Net profit/(deficit) attributable to members	91,385	56,284
Retained profit at the end of the financial year	<u>\$431,065</u>	<u>\$339,680</u>
16. LEASE COMMITMENTS		
<i>Operating lease commitments</i>		
Non-cancellable operating leases contracted for but not capitalised in the financial statements:		
– not later than 12 months	–	1,009
– between 12 months and 5 years	–	–
– greater than 5 years	–	–
	<u>–</u>	<u>\$1,009</u>

General description of leasing arrangements:

The Company has a non-cancellable operating lease arrangement in respect of a photocopier in the Perth branch which expired November 2007.

Statement of Financial Position

Environmental Health Australia

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

17. COMPANY DETAILS

The registered office and principal place of business of the company is:

Local Government House
Level 1, 25 Evelyn Street
Newstead Brisbane QLD 4006

Members' guarantee

The company is limited by guarantee. Every member undertakes to contribute to the assets of the company in the event of it being wound up while a member or within one year after ceasing to be a member, for payments of the debts and liabilities of the company and of the costs, charges and expenses of winding up and for adjustment of the rights of contributories among themselves, such amount as may be required, not exceeding \$2.10.

18. SEGMENT REPORTING

The company operates predominately in one business where it promotes and encourages the interest and practice of environmental health and operates with branches in each capital city of Australia.

	2008	2007
	\$	\$
19. KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL COMPENSATION		
Total compensation to directors	\$40,000	10,000

20. CASH FLOW INFORMATION

(a) Reconciliation of cash flow from operations with profit after income tax

Profit after income tax	91,385	56,284
Non-cash flows in profit:		
- Depreciation/asset write-offs	9,947	9,210
- Diminution of investments	(2,894)	-
- Distributions reinvested	-	-
- Bad debts	-	-
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
- Trade & other receivables current	(155,380)	(78,281)
- Inventories	11,264	5,823
- Other current assets	55,138	(54,703)
- Trade & other receivables non-current	-	11,448
- Financial assets	1,554	(2,120)
- Payables	31,434	19,031
- Long-term provisions	9,727	1,305
- Unearned revenue	(65,432)	107,696
	<u>\$ (13,257)</u>	<u>\$ 75,693</u>

(b) Credit standby arrangements & loan facilities

The company has credit card facilities of \$5,000. This may be terminated at any time at the option of the provider. At 30th June 2008, none of this facility was used. Interest rates are variable.

Statement of Financial Position

Environmental Health Australia

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

			2008	2007
			\$	\$
21. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS				
<i>(a) Financial risk management</i>				
The company's financial assets consist of deposits with banks, short-term investments, accounts receivable and payable, and leases.				
<i>(b) Interest rate risk</i>				
The company's exposure to interest rate risk, which is the risk that a financial instrument's value will fluctuate as a result of changes in market interest rates and the effective weighted average interest rates on the financial assets and financial liabilities, is as follows:				
	Weighted Average			
	Effective Interest Rate			
	2008	2007		
	%	%		
<i>Financial assets:</i>				
– Variable rate cash deposits	5.86	4.87	278,601	303,652
– Fixed rate deposits maturing within one year	6.14	3.24	117,904	111,491
– Trade & other receivables (non-interest bearing)	n/a	n/a	284,414	129,034
– Other financial assets – unit trust (non-interest bearing)	n/a	n/a	13,742	14,234
<i>Total financial assets:</i>			<u>\$694,661</u>	<u>\$558,411</u>
<i>Financial liabilities:</i>				
– Trade & other payables (non-interest bearing)	n/a	n/a	135,833	104,399
<i>Total financial liabilities</i>			<u>\$135,833</u>	<u>\$104,399</u>

(c) Net fair values

The net fair value of financial assets and liabilities shown in the statement of financial position and the notes thereto have been valued at market value as at balance date.

Independent Auditor's Report

to the Members of Environmental Health Australia

Report on the Financial Report

We have audited the accompanying financial report of Environmental Health Australia Limited, which comprises the balance sheet as at 30th June 2008, and the income statement, statement of changes in equity and cash flow statement for the year ended on that date, a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes and the directors' declaration of the company at the year's end or from time to time during the financial year.

Directors' Responsibility for the Financial Report

The directors of the company are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the *Corporations Act 2001*. This responsibility includes establishing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances. In Note 1, the directors also state, in accordance with Accounting Standard AASB 101: Presentation of Financial Statements, that compliance with the Australian equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) ensures that the financial report, comprising the financial statements and notes, complies with IFRS.

Audit Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the directors, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

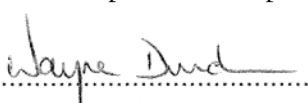
Independence

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independence requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001*. We confirm that the independence declaration required by the *Corporations Act 2001*, provided to the directors of Environmental Health Australia Limited on 24th October 2008 would be in the same terms if provided to the directors as at the date of this auditor's report.

Auditor's Opinion

In our opinion:

- (a) the financial report of Environmental Health Australia Limited is in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001*, including:
 - (i) giving a true and fair view of the company's financial position as at 30th June 2008 and of their performance for the year ended on that date; and
 - (ii) complying with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the Corporations Regulations 2001; and
- (b) the financial report also complies with International Financial Reporting Standards as disclosed in Note 1.

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Name of Firm: E. F. McPhail and Partners

Name of Partner: Wayne C. Durdin

Address: 38 Ellingworth Parade, Box Hill, Victoria, 3128

Dated this 24th day of October 2008

Awards and Membership Advancements

Environmental Health Australia

New South Wales/ACT Branch Award

2007 Student Award

Kevin Shepstone - OTEN -TAFE NSW

Queensland Branch Excellence Awards

Environmental Health Professional of the Year

Sponsored by: Transpacific Industries Pty Ltd

Dr Thomas Tenkate

Young Environmental Health Professional of the Year

Sponsored by: Visy Recycling

Angela Black

Queensland Branch Student Awards

AIEH Prize – Griffith University

Anthony Anderson

AIEH Prize – Queensland University of Technology

Hayley Page

Queensland Branch Advancements

Membership advancement to Fellow:

Greg Savage

Peter Byrne

Bruce Morton

Tasmania Branch Awards

2007 Gold Medal Award for the Most Outstanding Student

Tim Polley

South Australian Branch Awards

Department of Health Excellence in Leadership Award

Michael Livori, CEO Eastern Health Authority

Norman Waterhouse Excellence in Environmental Health Management Award

City of Port Adelaide Enfield

Award for Outstanding Individual Environmental Health Professional of the Year

Helen Psarras

Royal Society of Health prize for student attaining highest grade in ENVH3005, 'Integrating Environmental Health Research & Project Management

Andrew Vickers

Victorian Branch Awards

TGO Jordan Memorial Award

Melissa Keating

Keith W Magee Award

Clare Whittle

Leadership and Strategic Planning

Sandee Paterson

Victorian Branch Advancements

Membership advancement to Fellow

Ross Cairns

Fleur Cousins

Western Australian / NT Branch Awards

Harold Salter Award for 2006

Nathan Mitchell

Gold Medal Award for 2006

Joarod Griffiths

Branch Presidents' Reports

New South Wales/Australian Capital Territory Branch

The NSW/ACT Branch has had an exciting and successful year. This year brought new challenges to the role of an EHO as the emerging Climate Change debate continued and food safety and planning reforms began to take shape in NSW. The Branch was there to provide support and a voice for all NSW/ACT Environmental Health Practitioners to ensure we had a say in the direction our profession was heading.

A new Branch Council was elected for 2007-2008 which saw a changing of the guard. Former NSW/ACT Branch President Graham Pares left Branch Council to pursue personal interests overseas but left the branch in a healthy and vibrant position. There is still an interesting blend of old and new faces which will hopefully see the Branch continue to achieve significant outcomes in the coming years.

NSW/ACT Branch Council

Shannon McKiernan	- Branch President
Verity Beadle	- Branch Councillor
Ian Goldthorpe	- Branch Councillor
Graham Burgess	- Branch Councillor
Brian Jones	- Branch Councillor

The Branch formulated a Business Plan for 2007-08. This document gave Branch Council and its members a clear direction as to actions and priorities for 2008. Priority areas for the Branch in this financial year were on emerging issues such as Climate Change and continued advocacy and delivering professional development opportunities in the fields of food safety and public health.

The NSW/ACT Branch continued to deliver a series of training initiatives that proved to be fantastic professional development opportunities for members, covering a range of topical environmental health issues. The variety of training opportunities delivered really demonstrated the broad scope of issues that the modern environmental health officer needs to be equipped to deal with.

Programs delivered throughout the year included 3 day Food Surveillance School, 2 day Public Health School, Asbestos Handling seminars, Complaint Investigation seminar, and professional development workshops that focused on techniques for maintaining high levels of personal and professional productivity in the modern work environment.

The NSW/ACT Branch continued to represent the interests of environmental health professionals on a range of committees with state agencies. One of the most significant committees has been the Food Regulation Partnership Steering Committee, which has overseen the development and implementation of the Food Regulation Partnership in conjunction with the NSW Food Authority. This partnership will shepherd in a new era of regulation of food safety standards in NSW and EHA is more than happy with the identification of local government as a key player in safeguarding the health of the community. The

process of introduction of this partnership has required intensive training and assistance for all environmental health professionals, and the Branch is working hard to position itself to play a major role in the delivery of this service through programs such as Food Surveillance School.

The NSW/ACT Branch now incorporates our colleagues over the border. Environmental Health within the Australian Capital Territory is managed by the Health Protection Service with Branch Councillor Brian Jones Manager of Environmental Health Operations. The Public Health Act 1997 and the Food Act 2001 provides for licensing, monitoring and enforcement of public health. The acts allow for regulation of factors that may impact upon public health including food safety, cooling towers and warm water systems, safety of drinking and recreation water.

The Service conducts approximately 1900 food business inspections annually and analysed approximately 7000 food samples for bacteriological quality in the 2007-2008 financial year. Testing was conducted by the onsite NATA accredited bacteriological laboratory and the Service is progressively implementing the Food Safety Programs.

The Health Protection Service consists of a team of 14 Environmental Health Officers and a cadet. Further information is available from the ACT Health web site <http://www.health.act.gov.au/c/health?a=sp&pid=1053918396>

During the year a number of new Members joined the Branch and were welcomed in the National E-Newsletter. I would also acknowledge all members who retired during the last year, after long and distinguished careers in environmental health, and for whom we wish a long and healthy retirement. Formers members such as Jeff Walkley, a long serving member of some 40 plus years retired along with Ian Hancock, Col Cluderay, and John Craig, all members for more than 30 years.

We also acknowledge the huge contribution of Don Buckley, which includes five years as State President, and others such as Ron Cannon, Bob Butt, Bob Roach, David Baker and Kim Talbert over similar number of years. Geoff Edwards and Chrys Warren 39 and 41 years respectively in local government, thank you for your contributions to the profession. These former members and others like them who retired earlier or may be counting down, have made enormous contributions to EHA (formerly AIEH) and their profession.

Shannon McKiernan MAIEH

NSW/ACT Branch President

Branch Presidents' Reports

Queensland Branch

The Queensland Branch has had an exciting, and somewhat stressful, year. On top of the list of achievements has to be the very successful delivery of the International Federation of Environmental Health 10th World Congress which was held in Brisbane in May. This Congress also served as our Branch Conference and National Conference. Our Branch played a significant role in pulling this event together and those who attended were not disappointed. The venue; overall delegate attendance; breadth of topics covered; quality of international, national and local presentations; opening and closing ceremonies; conference dinner; and networking was superb. Comments received from delegates during the Congress were very positive, particularly from our overseas colleagues. I understand that the event also returned a tidy profit for the company.

If that was not enough excitement for members attending this Congress, the rebranding of the AIEH to EHA was announced along with the launch of the Continuing Professional Development Program and Certified Environmental Health Practitioner Scheme. Congratulations to Jim, Waikay, Board Members and all others involved in both of these achievements.

The 67th Annual Branch Conference, held in Bundaberg in October 2007 was a great success with over 70 delegates enjoying the local hospitality. Those who attended would agree that the quality and variety of presentations was excellent. The technical tour was also well attended and highlighted what could be achieved in both waste management and food production. Delegates also acknowledged the value of attending the workshop that was offered free to members for the first time. For the fourth year running, the 'Environmental Health Excellence Awards' were presented during the opening session.

The first few months of this year were also a very hectic time for some environmental health officers in Queensland. Following significant periods of drought, the heavens finally opened up dumping rain that had to be measured in metres, not millimetres, in some parts. The towns of Emerald, Mackay and Charleville, together with their surrounding districts, became disaster areas setting new challenges for environmental health officers. Mass evacuations, management of emergency shelters, flooded homes and business premises, power outages, disruptions to other essential services, waste management and vector control became daily issues that were to last, in some communities, for many weeks. Having been personally involved in previous responses to flooding in Charleville in 1990 and 1997 (and again this year), I have a very good understanding of the effort required to ensure communities remain safe, from an environmental and public health perspective, following events of this nature. On behalf of the Queensland Branch, I would like to acknowledge the excellent work undertaken by all environmental health officers, and their staff, who responded to these flooding events. You did the profession proud.

On top of all of that, Queensland went through a local government amalgamation process in March this year that has seen the total number of councils reduced from 157 to 73. This has had a number of impacts on both the environmental health profession and EHA Regional Groups. Branch Council is continuing to support members through this significant process.

Members serving on Branch Council during the year were;

Virgil Kelk	- Branch President
Thomas Tenkate	- Vice President
Grant Steen	- Vice President
Bruce Morton	- Branch Councillor
Don Deutscher	- Branch Councillor
Jim Edwards	- Branch Councillor
Paul Endres	- Branch Councillor
Luke Forster	- Branch Councillor
David Hancock	- Branch Councillor
Amanda Hutchings	- Branch Councillor
Peter McKee	- Branch Councillor
Sofie Sandberg	- Branch Councillor
Brett Esbensen	- Branch Councillor to Nov 07
Jon Gibbons	- Branch Councillor to Nov 07
Susan Myrowkah	- Branch Councillor to Nov 07
Belinda Davies	- Branch Councillor from Nov 07
Sarah Fuller	- Branch Councillor from Nov 07
Vince Stephens	- Branch Councillor from Nov 07

Branch Council continues to meet regularly through a combination of teleconferences and a number of face to face meetings each year. Our branch councillors come from a variety of locations throughout Queensland and work for local governments, Queensland Health, a University, and private enterprise. Branch membership has increased significantly and once again this year, we have met or exceeded our budget goals.

Conferences and Training

- Delivery of the IFEH 10th World Congress in Brisbane in May 2008
- Delivery of the popular Disaster Management for Public Health course 2007
- Successful delivery of the Annual Branch Conference in Bundaberg, October 2007
- Planning for the Disaster Management for Public Health course, which is to be held in Cairns in late August 2008
- Planning for the Annual Branch Conference in 2009
- Delivery of Noise Management Workshops and a Contemporary Food Safety Training Course

Branch Presidents' Reports

Queensland Branch (continued)

SIG Reports

While SIG conveners continue to provide valuable input into legislation development and review, as well as monitoring emerging issues, Branch Council has identified the need to review the functionality of the SIGs and how they align with other States and the National Board's vision. This matter is currently before the Board.

Regional Group Report

Our four regional groups continue to provide a significant conduit to, and connectivity with, our members throughout Queensland. Each group meets on a regular basis enabling members to network, share experiences and undertake professional development at their local level. I would like to again express my sincere appreciation to all regional group chairs and secretaries for the valuable contribution they continue to make to the EHA.

Professional Tools/ Products and Services

While the Queensland Branch Council continues to support the marketing and supply of a range of professional tools, products and services, the rebranding to EHA should now provide a great opportunity to review the current range of products and tools, at a National level, to ensure that they are still attractive and useful to members.

Included in these "services" is training provided by EHA. There is an urgent need to strategically review the training needs of members from a "cradle to grave" perspective to ensure that we better meet their needs as they develop and progress within the environmental health profession. While Branches currently provide a range of excellent training opportunities, there is a great opportunity to strengthen our training obligations through accreditation of appropriate courses, sharing of these accredited courses between Branches and exploring/enhancing relationships with tertiary institutions to establish whether the structured training provided by the EHA (through the "cradle to grave" approach) could be linked to University recognized advanced certificates, diplomas, and degrees. Discussions at a National level have commenced concerning this exciting initiative.

Virgil Kelk FAIEH

Queensland Branch President

Branch Presidents' Reports

Queensland Branch (continued)

Special Interest Group Report Immunisation/Communicable Diseases SIG

The first CD SIG Strategy as stated in the Charter and Action Plan is as follows:

* To consult and make representation on behalf of the membership to the relevant Federal and State Authorities on matters relating to the prevention and control of communicable diseases.

Unfortunately last year, some of the Queensland Health decisions affecting Local Government members participating in school vaccination programs had been made without any reference to EHA. Those decisions were perceived as deficient in some areas and lacking in practicability, in relation to those who actually have to deliver the school programs.

Information on the CD SIG was provided to QH but the letter from the Senior Director, Communicable Diseases Branch made it clear that EHA has no role in this area and the advice was that the LGAQ has nominated 2 Local Governments to represent Local Government on the School Based Program Advisory Group. It was further suggested that our members should contact their respective (Queensland Health) School Based Vaccination Program Coordinators

This was disappointing from an EHA point of view, especially since one of the 2 named member Local Government bodies nominated by the LGAQ doesn't attend the South East Queensland School Based Vaccination Program meetings, comprising all other SEQ LGs involved in school immunisation and at which key relevant issues are discussed with Queensland Health representatives.

1) VPD - The School Based Vaccination Program for 2008 has seen the continuance of the two year HPV (Human Papilloma Virus) catch up program. For those Councils involved in the program, the 2007/2008 period has been demanding.

Comments on the 2007 part of the program (please note that the comments and percentages relate to Gold Coast and are not necessarily reflective of the program in its entirety):

Diphtheria/Tetanus/ Pertussis Booster vaccine:

The uptake of this single dose booster vaccination is considered quite low with approximately 56% student uptake of the vaccine. Perhaps this particular vaccination should be promoted more heavily within the schools to increase uptake in future years, especially in light of the outbreaks of Pertussis (whooping cough) at regular intervals on the Gold Coast.

Chickenpox vaccination:

This vaccination is offered to those students who had not had the disease at the time of vaccination, being Year 8 (13 year olds). National statistics show that up to 83% of the Australian population are seropositive (have had the disease) by 10 to 14 years of age (Australian Immunisation Handbook 9th Edition 2008). The vaccination is currently offered to 13 year olds, but since November 2005, also offered free of charge to 18 month olds. Uptake for Year 8s was quite low at 31%, which is indicative of the 83% referred to above; however, there is now a possibility that the 13 year old 1 dose regime may become a 2 dose regime and so there seems little likelihood that the vaccine would be phased out of the school program.

Hepatitis B vaccine:

This 2 dose Hepatitis B vaccination was issued to 52% (dose 1) and 42% (dose 2) of the year 8 students in 2007. Therefore, it is fair to say that at least 42% of Year 8 students received the full course Hepatitis B vaccination. The actual percentage may be higher as some students may have opted to get the second dose at their own general practitioner or they may have moved away from the City and received it elsewhere. This vaccination has been provided by GCCC to 0-1 year olds and Year 8 students since 2001.

HPV vaccine:

During 2007, this 3 dose vaccination was given to consenting Years 10, 11 and 12 girls. Given the high profile of this new vaccine, the uptake levels of 55%, 50%, and 50% respectively were considered quite low. Years 8, 9 and 10 will be immunised during 2008 and then the vaccine will be offered to Year 8 females only in 2009 onwards. The catch up program will be completed in December 2008 with the free HPV vaccine available until June 30th 2009.

Don Deutscher MAIEH and Paul Clancy MAIEH

Immunisation/Communicable Diseases SIG Convenors

Branch Presidents' Reports

Queensland Branch (continued)

Regional Group Report

The Northern Group held two conferences, Townsville November 2007 and Atherton June 2008, both of which were well attended by members, sponsors and guests.

The November conference hosted by Townsville City Council was a special opportunity for the Group to say farewell and happy retirement to Paddy Flynn who made a large contribution to the Northern Group in the 70s and 80s and spent almost his entire career working for Mackay City Council in its various incarnations. Bob McAuliffe of MacDonald Johnston Engineering, a long time sponsor of the Northern Group and EHA was also farewelled and awarded honorary membership of EHA. Bob's insightful views were always welcomed by members and guests attending various Northern Group conferences.

The June conference hosted by the newly-amalgamated Tablelands Regional Council at Atherton/Tolga included a workshop to discuss issues involved with Council amalgamations. Useful perspectives were given by members, sponsors, guests and the deputy mayor of the Tablelands Regional Council. Alex Skubij of Cairns Regional Council hosted a workshop based on the principles of business excellence covering methods and incentives to obtain and retain the services of Environmental Health Officers.

The Northern Group members thank all sponsors for their attendance and valued contribution to the success of each conference, in particular, Townsville City Council (November), Tablelands Regional Council (June), MacDonald Johnston Engineering, Pacific Biologics, Golder Associates, Woolworths, and Servesafe.

Rob Smith and I thank all members, sponsors and guests who attended, presented and organised, to deliver very successful conferences.

Jim Masselos MAIEH

Northern Group Chair

Branch Presidents' Reports

South Australian Branch

South Australian Environmental Health Practitioners are currently inundated with new programs, revised legislation and consultation requests for proposed amendments to substantial Acts including our Public & Environmental Health Act of 1987.

The transition period for the implementation of food safety plans for businesses serving vulnerable populations ends in October 2008 and many local government Environmental Health Officers have undertaken training for recognition as approved Food Safety Auditors. The Food Safety Plan Implementation Working Group, members of Branch Council and the Food SIG have worked closely with the Department of Health on this program and supporting arrangements to assist with its implementation.

South Australian members are being challenged by recent media attention over enforcement action under the Food Act and a push by independent MP Bob Such to make public food business inspection results. 'Naming and shaming' or 'scores on the doors' are the initiatives being sought. An executive group from Branch Council and former President met with Hon. Minister Hill to discuss improvements to the Food Act which would enable continuous improvement to food regulation in South Australia. Our meeting aims were:

- To raise awareness of Environmental Health Australia
- To provide in principle support of any proposal that makes food premises inspection results and food business standards transparent to the community for the purpose of improving food safety (such as scores on the doors)
- To identify our priorities which are fundamental to developing an effective food safety system & which underpin programs such as 'scores on the doors', these are:
 - o food business registration,
 - o mandatory food handler food safety & hygiene training and
 - o effective penalties
 - o To pave the way for further meetings as the MOU work plan is implemented

Support was received to review inspection fees and registration of food businesses with a recommendation to align with the LGA in our approach. Branch Council will be consulting with members before progressing these opportunities with the Department of Health and LGA.

Conference/s, Training and Education

The South Australian Branch coordinated the following training during the period of this report,

- Strategic Investigation Techniques and Evidence Gathering,
- Pandemic Influenza Seminar, and
- Workshop on implementation of Legionella Regulations.

Branch Council also supported an On Site Waste Water Seminar / Demonstration day coordinated by the City of Onkaparinga in conjunction with the South Australian Department of Health.

30th SA Branch Conference was held at Saltram Estate in the Barossa Valley and attracted over 100 delegates from around South Australia over the 3 days.

The theme of this year's conference was "The World is our Oyster" which highlighted the delicate nature of our planet and that we, like the oyster, are the "filter feeders" and are constantly challenged by changes in our environment. We also wanted to celebrate our 30th anniversary and the pearl represents the traditional 30th anniversary gift.

The Conference program included important issues such as the workforce crisis facing Environmental Health Practitioners, immunisation, emergency management, a review of the Public & Health Act 1987, conflict management, cooling towers and grey water reuse. The keynote speakers were Prof Valerie Brown AO who discussed the challenges facing the EH workforce in the future and Peng Bi who discussed the potential impact climate change will have on Environmental Health.

Branch Council

Ian Hawkins	- President
Michaela Hobby	- Vice President to 1 Jan 2008
Tony Pearson	- Vice President
Kirsten Ross	- Councillor
Daniel Galbraith	- Councillor
Susan Bennett	- Councillor
Karen Rokicinski	- Councillor
Robert Dunstone	- Councillor
Darren Isgar	- Councillor to 1 Jan 2008
Leanne Auricht	- Councillor to 1 Jan 2008
Deborah Hemmes	- Councillor to 1 Jan 2008
Jeremy Draper	- Vice President from 1 Jan 2008
Anita Benovic	- Councillor from 1 Jan 2008
Kim Pearson	- Councillor from 1 Jan 2008
Yvonne Menere	- Councillor from 1 Jan to June 2008
Helen Psarras	- Councillor from June 2008

Branch Presidents' Reports

South Australian Branch (SA Branch)

Special Interest Groups

Special Interest Groups (SIGs) were active in the topics of Food Safety and Disease Control & Emergency Management. Our Environment SIG is currently being replaced by a new group, the Climate Change SIG and Waste Control SIG has new convenors

Special accomplishments of the SIGs during 2008 included:

- Attendance at the Food Auditor training coordinated by the Department of Health. Over 70 EHOs completed the 5 day training course
- Representation on the Food Safety Plan Implementation Working Group
- Discussions on FSP audit fee structures. On behalf of Environmental Health Australia (EHA) the SIG wrote to the LGA requesting advice and assistance developing an audit fee policy for Councils. Work is still being done to address this issue.
- Launch of standard inspection pads for swimming pools, skin penetration and hairdressing.
- Joint Development of Emergency Management Information with the Department of Health – The Department of Health has agreed to work with SIG members to complete and make available these valuable resources.
- Improve and encourage Regional EHP's participation /access to the SIGs – This project has produced some valuable ideas to increase regional EHP's participation in and access to exchanging of information and support that is gained from SIG membership. It is hoped in 2009 all SIGs will have a combined day of SIG meeting so our regional practitioners can make a worth while trip to the city.

Branch Council in conjunction with our Special Interest Groups provided submissions to the following:

- Formation of a working party on Pandemic Influenza,
- Legionella regulations implementation program,
- Memorandum of Understanding with the Dairy Authority (SA)
- Providing comments on the Local Government Association of SA Council Guide to Emergency Management Planning;
- On behalf of EHA, an official submission was made on the FSANZ P290 Food Safety Programs for Catering sector. In general, the introduction of FSPs for the catering sector was supported, however several potential implementation issues were highlighted.

Professional Tools/Products/Services

The South Australian Branch is pleased to announce the release of new inspection pads for Hairdressing, Skin Penetration & Beauty, Swimming Pools and Cooling Towers. Members of the Disease Control SIG have collaborated to produce these valuable tools for existing, new and lone practitioners. Explanation guides to the inspection forms have also been developed to explain each section of the form and guide the user to relevant standards and/or legislation. Orders are being taken now and should be placed with Mina Labaz, Executive Officer (SA Branch)

A project officer, Melinda Coleshill was appointed from grant funding made available from the Local Government Association (SA) to develop a Knowledge base for Environmental Health Practitioners. This manual aims to provide EHPs with consistent documentation and procedures to assist them to do their job. Information available on-line includes model policies, standard operating procedures, guidelines, checklists, customer fact sheets, case studies and training, specifically for Environmental Health activities. The project is in its infancy with the project officer completing an overview of the manual and procedure for the management and review of documentation. Best practice procedures will now be worked up with input from our SIGs and the Department of Health with development of the web pages occurring in conjunction with the Local Government Association.

Three editions of South Australia Food Handler Update (SAFHU) were published during the year. This professional and important publication for the food industry was received by over 9000 food businesses via 38 subscribing Councils. SAFHU provides food businesses with up to date information on food safety and legislative change and Local Government with a regular point of contact with businesses beyond routine inspection.

Ian Hawkins MAIEH

South Australian Branch President

Branch Presidents' Reports

South Australian Branch (continued)

Special Interest Group Reports

Food SIG Annual Report

The Food SIG has continued to be an active group with meetings well attended on a regular basis and strong participation in the various working groups and committees that have been formed throughout the year. The implementation of mandatory Food Safety Programs for food businesses serving food to vulnerable populations has been the main focus for the group this year and will continue to be as EHOs step into the auditing role. The support of members has been appreciated and we would like to take this opportunity to thank the Department of Health who provided valuable support and feedback throughout the year.

Our thanks are extended to Adele Nazarri who stepped down as Convenor and Bob Netherton. Adele's efforts in guiding the group have been important in maintaining our focus and Bob has provided valuable feedback and representation on the National Food Safety Advisory Committee and the SA Meat Food Safety Advisory Committee.

Food Safety Programs

We are now well into the transition period for the implementation of food safety programs. Throughout the year the SIG has been involved in the following activities:

- Member attendance at the Food Auditor training coordinated by the Department of Health. Over 70 EHOs completed the 5 day training course.
- Representation on the Auditing Workgroup who provided the Department of Health with comments on various issues and documentation such as:
- Auditor Guidelines
- Audit Checklist and Audit Report
- Auditor Application Form and Code of Conduct
- Council letter to businesses and business list
- Other issues such as skill examination trials, FSP templates and implementation issues.
- Discussions on FSP audit fee structures. On behalf of Environmental Health Australia (EHA) the SIG wrote to the LGA requesting advice and assistance developing an audit fee policy for Councils. Work is still being done to address this issue.
- On behalf of EHA, an official submission was made on the FSANZ P290 Food Safety Programs for Catering sector. In general, the introduction of FSPs for the catering sector was supported, however, several potential implementation issues were highlighted.

Review of the Food Act MOU

Members were involved in the Food Act MOU Review Working Party established by DH and included representatives from Local Government and the LGA. Key improvements included strengthening the intent of MOU, inclusion of FSP and auditing responsibilities and most significantly, the addition of a work program. The concept of the work program is to identify activities/projects that would improve the DH/LG regulatory system and address the issues raised by EHOs. The SIG prepared a formal submission to provide comments on the content of the MOU during the consultation period.

Department of Health Planning Day

A second DH/LG Planning Day was held in April 2008 and was well attended by members. A range of items were discussed including:

- Review of FAIS and the Food Act MOU
- Improving enforcement consistency between LGs
- Registration versus Notification
- Implementation of the Seafood, Catering and Ready to Eat Meat Standards
- Format of future Food Act Reports
- Uniform risk classification and national enforcement policy

FAIS Review

Several Members were involved in the FAIS Review Board coordinated by DH and a private consultant. The focus of the project is to review the online food business notification system, and involved a Council wide survey to assess the current use of FAIS, problems encountered and future needs. The project is currently in its final stages.

Egg Survey & Raw Chicken

A significant proportion of food poisonings have recently been associated with eggs and chicken, prompting the need for further education on egg safety and handling raw chicken. The SIG provided feedback on Food Industry Bulletins that were developed by DH, and Councils participated in an egg survey to determine industry compliance at both the producer and retailer level. The SIG is committed to working with DH to develop long term strategies for the future.

SA Food Handler Update (SAFHU)

The editorial team continues to provide a useful information resource which is distributed to more than 9,500 businesses by over 30 Councils. Keep up the good work and a special thank you goes to Susan King who recently stepped down as editor after years of dedication to the team.

Branch Presidents' Reports

South Australian Branch (continued)

Guest Speakers/Presentations

Members are encouraged to arrange guest speakers to present on topical issues relating to food. This year we have had interesting presentations from CDCB, Start Right Eat Right and IMVS. Department of Health also presented information on their food sampling surveys and issues of particular interest such as recent outbreaks and investigations. 'Show and Tell' has recently been added as an ongoing item on the agenda. This provides Councils with an opportunity to share general information on policies/processes, and to present 'case studies' on how they have dealt with particular issues.

Food Safety Week

Held in November, the theme "Back to Basics" focused on the key food safety issues - clean, cook, chill and separate. The Department of Health offered small grants to encourage Councils to participate and those that undertook educational projects provided feedback to the SIG. All projects were reported to have been successful in promoting the basic food safety messages. The DH grant was extremely beneficial in assisting Council's to fund such projects that otherwise may not have been conducted.

Naming & Shaming/Scores on Doors

Lastly, an issue that has recently received media attention revolves around the concept of making food premises inspection details available to the public. Scores on Doors and other similar programs are currently being implemented overseas and this greater transparency in food regulation is being promoted by some local members of parliament. This issue will no doubt be one that the SIG will continue to discuss and debate.

Jeremy Draper MAIEH and Elle Clarke MAIEH

Food SIG Co-Conveners:

Branch Presidents' Reports

South Australian Branch (continued)

Disease Control/Emergency Management Special Interest Group

At the end of 2007 Ian Miller stepped down as co-convenor of the Disease Control/Emergency Management Special Interest Group (SIG) and Leanne Auricht stepped down as secretary due to her relocation interstate. SIG members thank Courtney Krake for taking up the position of co-convenor and Rebecca Dyson the position as secretary. The SIG and Environmental Health Australia (EHA) branch council wish to thank Ian and Leanne for their hard work and contribution to the SIG over the past few years.

The financial year 2007/2008 was another busy year with many of the objectives set either completed or nearing completion due to the contribution and dedication of its members. The SIG currently has 50 registered members, which we hope to expand upon next financial year as we work towards increasing our regional Environmental Health Practitioner (EHP) SIG membership.

At the beginning of each year the organising committee (Convenors and Secretary), in line with branch Council's Business objectives, sets in place desired achievements the SIG wishes to complete. This year has seen some time consuming, complicated items carried over from 2007 nearing completion and some new challenges being taken up. This year's challenges include:

- Finalising Inspection Pads – While this is a carryover from 2007, the SIG is happy to report orders have now been taken and will be supplied by June/July 2008.
- Finalising Inspection Booklets – This too is a carryover from 2007. These will be available on the EHA website so they can be easily updated and revised as needed from August 2008.
- Launch of Inspection Pads – This was done at the 2008 State Conference. The SIG is happy to report this project has been taken on by National office with the aim of making the pads available interstate through a collaborative effort from other state SIGs. Feedback from National office and other states is enthusiastic with congratulations to SA Branch being conveyed. There is also the thought that our forms may be made available on eOffice.
- Development of Outline of SIG for EHA Website – This project has been taken on by members to develop a profile of the SIGs activities and achievements.
- Joint Development of Emergency Management Information with the Department of Health – The Department of Health has agreed to work with SIG members to complete and make available these valuable resources.

- Improve and encourage Regional EHPs participate/access to the SIG – This project has produced some valuable ideas to increase regional EHP's participation in and access to exchanging of information and support that is gained from SIG membership. It is hoped in 2009 all SIGs will have a combined day of SIG meeting so our regional practitioners can make a worthwhile trip to the city.
- Address comments on legislation changes – This is an ongoing challenge as new and revised legislation is made public. In 2008 it is expected we will see the release of the Legionella regulations which will present may new challenges of which the SIG will provide a forum .

This year also saw the Disease Control/Disaster Management SIG change its name to the Disease Control/Emergency Management SIG. This name change was to align with the naming of other state SIGs, and because the word "emergency" encompasses all emergency events.

Emergency Management

In February 2008, the SIG held a very successfully "Act Don't React – Pandemic" Seminar. 60 people attended on the day that included not only EHPs, but also, Immunisation Network personnel, various Emergency services personnel, PIRSA and Department of Health officers. Speakers presented on the current thoughts, ideas and plans, how to handle difficult people in a stressful situation, and a health promotion campaign. Feedback was very positive with a call for further training in the handling of difficult people. For the first time we invited the Immunisation Network to attend. This was warmly received and the aim is to include the Network in any further relevant training.

The Department of Health has also taken on our feedback and suggestion of establishing a working party to determine Local Government's (LG) role in an emergency. All names we submitted for consideration to participate in the working party were agreed to. The first meeting was held in June, with representatives from EHA and Local Government EHPs, the Local Government Association (LGA), Department of Health Environmental Health Section, and Communicable Disease Control Branch representatives. While it appears the working party may only address LG's role in a Pandemic, it is felt by all parties this is a starting point and can be extended in due course to encompass all emergency situations.

The Emergency Management Course for Environmental Health Practitioners held in November 2006 and early 2007 was nominated for a 2007 Australian Safer Communities Awards. On 7 September 2007, EHA was presented with a Certificate of Commendation by Minister Carmen Zollo.

Branch Presidents' Reports

South Australian Branch (continued)

Meetings

Meetings were again alternated between City of Mitcham and other metropolitan locations and alternated between a presentation from a Guest Speaker and a "Show and Tell" presentation. "Show and Tell" was a new concept introduced this year to enhance the exchanging and sharing of information, an aim of the SIG meetings. Meeting presentations included:

- 28 Aug 2007, Guest speaker Joy Copland from the Department of Health Communicable Disease Control Branch, who gave an overview of the Department's roles and responsibilities and addressed various questions;
- 30 Oct 2007, Guest speaker Lindsay Casper, Acting Team Leader, Housing Improvement Branch, Housing Improvement and Accommodation Standards Branch, Housing SA, who spoke on their agency's role and responsibilities;
- 4 Dec 2007, a Show and Tell on "How councils handle vermin issues". The Lead agency was the City of Playford, with an amusing discussion on vermin complaints as each agency discussed and compared issues;
- 26 Feb 2008, an Emergency Management presentation on Kangaroo Island Bushfires from Helen Psarras, the Department of Health. Helen gave a mesmerizing presentation of the Public Health issues she and fellow Kangaroo Island EHP (Peter Moores) dealt with during the emergency;
- 29 April 2008, a Show and Tell on "What Emergency Management Plans councils have in place/are working on", with Eastern Health Authority as the Lead agency;
- 24 June 2008, a presentation and discussion about the new Legionella Regulations. Michaela Hobby from the Department of Health discussed the new regulations and answered members' questions.

Other

Other issues that have been discussed and addressed this financial year include:

- Providing comments on the Local Government Association of SA Council Guide to Emergency Management Planning;
- Display spa pool inspections and compliance;
- Legionella Regulation roll out;
- Liaising with other state SIGs to access state if issues Nationally;
- Discussion with Val Smyth, Manager DH Emergency Management Unit regarding Pandemic planning.

Thanks go to the SIG organising committee and its members for its achievements this financial year. By working together, sharing information and exchanging ideas we have contributed to the enhancement of the profession not only within our state, but on a national level.

Susan Bennett MAIEH and Courtney Krake MAIEH

*Disease Control/Emergency Management Special Interest Group
Co-convenors*

Branch Presidents' Reports

Tasmanian Branch

Branch Council continues to provide positive momentum and direction for all the EH practitioners around the state. Although there have been a couple of personnel changes during the year there remains a strong commitment to continue to work towards addressing workforce and workplace issues of concern. I would like to acknowledge our Branch Council members –

Senior Vice President & Director EHA	Ron Fry
Vice President & Director EHA	Eric Johnson
Branch Councillor	Abylene Dobson
Branch Councillor	Doug Doherty
Branch Councillor	James Doherty
Branch Councillor	Alison Duniam
Student Representative	Jacob Farran

During the year we farewelled Branch Councillor Michael Stretton and Student Representative Megan Whalley – a special thank you to Michael and Megan who contributed greatly to the successful functioning of Branch Council.

Below is a summary of Branch Council representation and participation in specific events and activities throughout the year on behalf of members and other EH practitioners alike:

- Attended and participated in the Environmental Health Workforce Summit held in Brisbane in July 2007;
- Industry input at five (5) meetings/forums on Local Government Training Packages and Skills Australia;
- Interview on local ABC Radio re environmental health workforce issues;
- Participation in national and local careers expos;
- Initiated two (2) meetings with Director of Public Health re workforce issues;
- Organised meetings with leaders of three (3) local political parties re new UTas EH degree and workforce issues;
- Organised and conducted three (3) Branch Council meetings;
- Drafted and issued two(2) local newsletters to complement the issue of national newsletters;
- Organised and conducted two (2) student BBQs for all students currently enrolled in new and existing EH courses;
- Donated \$250 for the industry prize for the best academic graduate of 2007;
- Attended the annual TAFE graduation evening and presented the graduation certificate and industry prize to best academic graduate of 2007; and
- Attended and participated in the IFEH 10th World Congress on Environmental Health in Brisbane in May 2008.

The new Bachelor of Health Science (Environmental Health) was finally approved and accredited at all levels and is now being offered at the Launceston Campus of the University of Tasmania. Mission accomplished! A capacity number of students enrolled for the face-to-face first year and we are all eagerly awaiting the end of the year to undertake a full review of this flagship degree course.

Conferences and Training

Another full program of seminars was organised and conducted at The Grange function centre in Campbell Town. Four (4) seminars were held and the range of topics presented included health software, dairy self-assessment tool, WWTP odour management, environmental policy update, bed bugs in public accommodation, on-site water quality testing, egg safety, several climate change presentations, the role of regional EHOs, solar heating, emergency management incidents, raw egg products salmonella outbreaks, EHOs volunteering overseas, FSS workshop, food microbiology – refrigeration index and guidelines for in-water vessel maintenance.

The annual branch conference was held at St Helens on the far North East coast of Tasmania and continued to set the benchmark as the most popular EH event of the year. The conference theme 'Rising To The Challenge' certainly met expectations with a controversial topic or two from a couple of invited mainland speakers. Overall the presenters, the technical workshop, the technical tour, the evening social activities, the conference dinner, presentation of industry awards, the venue and location and the delegates made for another worthwhile and enjoyable conference.

The EHA 2009 National Conference is scheduled to be held in Hobart at the Wrest Point Convention Centre from 11 – 13 November. We look forward to seeing many of our interstate colleagues either flying over or driving over, via the Spirit of Tasmania, to enjoy the conference and then staying on to see and experience some of the spectacular sights around Tasmania – love this place!

Mark Dwyer MAIEH

Tasmanian Branch President

Branch Presidents' Reports

Victorian Branch

There has been a huge amount of activity in Victoria around the proposed changes to the Food Act. This has required environmental health input to State Government and the Municipal Association of Victoria, through a working party called the Department of Human Services/ Municipal Association Victoria Food Safety Steering Committee. This group has been meeting monthly for 3 years and often has needed additional input from various metropolitan and rural Councils to fully understand the potential impacts of the changes. Although the draft Food Act only came before Councils for comment July 2008 a great deal of work has been done prior to local government consultation. Fortunately the group has been very receptive to EHA input and I thank all Victorian members and the Branch Council for support and strategic advice in negotiations with this working party.

Branch Council for the period was constituted by the following members;

Geoff Fraser	- President
Rod Riddell	- Vice President
Louis Papageorgiou	- Councillor
Arthur Tsekouras	- Councillor
Rob Brunton	- Councillor
Lyle Clausen	- Councillor
David Esmore	- Councillor
Adam Lee	- Councillor
Rania Kassab	- Councillor
Samantha Crowe	- Councillor
Doug Martin	- Councillor
Tammy Gelley	- Councillor from Nov 07

In November 2007 the Victorian State Conference was held in Geelong and could be deemed one of the most successful state conferences. The proceedings included a visit to the National Animal Health Laboratory where the calibre of professional presentations really opened our eyes to future environmental health issues.

The Victorian Branch was successful in winning a State Department of Human Services tender to provide environmental health practitioners with training in aspects of prosecution. The tender submission is a team effort between Macpherson and Kelley lawyers and EHA. A great deal of work is currently being completed by Melinda Chapman of Infocus Management to ensure the course can be delivered to 30 practitioners late September 2008. EHA has now expanded its scope as a training provider to enable delivery of this course. There may be a future opportunity to offer the course in other states. For assistance in winning this work I would again like to thank Melinda and Solicitor Olga Koskie of the legal team at Macpherson and Kelley.

The Food Special Interest Group put on a fantastic group of presentations in a day seminar, where we heard from an operating manager at George Weston Foods in respect to the sabotage of cakes, the ice industry on the inherent risks in food grade ice and from municipalities that had taken the action of closing food premises.

Planning commenced to offer our profession a major waste water conference in Victoria. Traditionally these sessions have been conducted out of Armidale NSW. However, with much thanks to member Callum Morrison – (Benalla Rural City Council); EHA has teamed up with the Australian Water Association and a waste water conference will be held in October 2008.

Nick Lund (Member – Knox City Council) teamed up with an organisation, Homeland Security and delivered a very informative 2 day session on pandemic planning. The session was very professional and members attending could see what can be achieved with generous sponsorship from related industries.

National President Jim Smith assisted our branch with some business planning during April and with this direction we are well positioned to make the most of the future.

Special thanks to Bernadet Ferraro for always assisting and continually being able to organise EHA sessions, answer all questions and do the finances. Further, Bernadet studied every Tuesday this year to secure a qualification in workplace assessment and training. This qualification will be a huge asset to supporting the September professional legal management course

I cannot complete this annual report without giving credit to the International Congress in May. Simply, it was the most informative and professionally conducted conference I've ever attended and gives great optimism that environmental health practitioners have an exciting future.

Geoff Fraser MAIEH

Victorian Branch President

Branch Presidents' Reports

Victorian Branch (continued)

Special Interest Group Reports

Food Special Interest Group

At the start of the 2008 year the Food SIG reviewed its role and scope of activity to remind the committee members of the role that the Food SIG holds within EHA and to review what this group is to deliver for EHA members. By reviewing the SIG's outline the members once again committed themselves to another 12 months to improving food safety in Victoria.

As part of the SIG's core function to provide clarity and direction through policy and best practice, the SIG successfully delivered the revised Food Safety Standard of Practice for Complaints to members.

The standard of practice was adopted by Branch Council on 19 October 2007 and officially launched by Samantha Crowe at the SIG's annual food safety seminar in June 2008. The standard of practice aims to provide guidelines to create a consistent systematic approach for investigating food complaint matters.

In August 2007 the SIG reviewed the organisation's national Australian Food Safety Assessment checklist (ASFA). This proved to be a challenging task and highlighted to the SIG that as a checklist it serves as one of many tools to EHPs in the field. Through much discussion the task has now evolved into identifying and developing detailed guidelines focusing on strategically managing risks.

Due to the current food regulatory environment, the SIG found itself needing to review the business plan again to reflect the much anticipated work that will come out of the Department of Human Services' discussion paper.

In addition to achieving the key targets of the business plan, the SIG has continued to provide input and representation on a range of state committees, working groups and reviews including:

- Representation on the Food Safety Council
- Representation on the DHS/MAV Temporary Food Premises committee
- Participated in project reference groups to review DHS' resources
- Contributed to the development of EHA's legal prosecution course
- Responded to local government issues upon request.

The SIG values the importance of effectively communicating to EHA members. In order to achieve this, the SIG is actively posting information on the EHA website. This information includes:

- SIGs outline
- Business plan
- Adopted standards of practice
- Minutes from meetings (held bimonthly)
- Presentations from seminars

The SIG finished the last 12 months by delivering professional development to members. On June 11, The SIG hosted the 'Food Safety – A smorgasbord of issues' at the Darebin Arts Centre. The sub group headed by Robyn Duffy (co-convenor) delivered another successful seminar that was well supported by members

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all SIG members and EHA members who have contributed to the various activities conducted over the last 12 months and we are now preparing ourselves for another very busy and exciting year of food safety.

Leanne Johnson MAIEH & Robyn Duffy MAIEH

Food SIG Co-convenors

Branch Presidents' Reports

Victorian Branch (continued)

Emergency Management Special Interest Group

The EMSIG has had a number of focuses in the last financial year. These included:

- Development and facilitation of the 2008 Emergency Management Course.
- Participation in interagency Emergency Management Committees.
- Development and presentation of emergency management education materials and presentations for Environmental Health students at Swinburne University.

2008 Emergency Management Course for Public Health Professionals

The EMSIG has continued its focus on the development and facilitation of the nationally accredited Emergency Management Course for Public Health Professionals. This course, which has been conducted since 1985 and accredited since 1995, continues to provide vital training in the public health issues of an emergency in the four key areas of emergency management: Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Recovery.

The 2008 Course, was held at Emergency Management Australia, Mt Macedon from 27 July to 1 August with a full complement of thirty participants including Environmental Health Officers (including representatives from interstate), personnel from the Department of Human Services and personnel from the Defence Department (RAAF).

To maintain the accreditation status and ensure topics are current and of interest, the EMSIG continued to review the course program and the tabletop exercise.

Emergency Management Committees

The EMSIG represents EHA through its extensive network and through its participation in a number of Emergency Management committees. Current committees and EMSIG members representing the EHA are:

Daniela Failla	State Catering Sub-Committee and DHS Pandemic Influenza Working Group
Ross Cairns	Municipal Emergency Management Enhancement Group "MEMEG"
Duncan Moore	DHS Pandemic Influenza Working Group

Swinburne University lectures

The EMSIG has continued to be part of the environmental health training sector through the Swinburne University course for Environmental Health Practitioners. At the request of Louise Dunn Course Co-ordinator, a number of EMSIG members have presented lectures on emergency management topics to the students. Speakers have included:

- Seona Liew
- Andrea Spiteri
- Daniela Failla
- Houa Tia

In May this year, the EMSIG gave an overview of Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Recovery to first year students. In late 2007, the SIG undertook a presentation for second year students, which was an assessed item of their course. This builds on the development of this part of the Swinburne University course, and the utilisation of the EMSIG in their course structure continues to be an achievement for the EMSIG.

Sponsorship

The EMSIG would like to thank Kernow Environmental Services (Terry Old), and the Department of Human Services for their financial support of the Emergency Management for Public Health Professionals course this year. Without this financial support, the cost of the course would have to increase to a point where smaller rural councils may not be in a financial position to allow EHOs to participate.

Other Items

In addition to the above, the professional achievements of some of the EMSIG members are recognised:

- Kirsten Jenkins returned from Laos after working with the Burnet Institute as a Project Management Advisor. Burnet's programs focussed mainly on HIV prevention and social research. Kirsten has returned to her previous position as Coordinator Public Health and Municipal Recovery Manager with Nillumbik Shire Council.
- Ross Cairns is Coordinator Environmental Health and Municipal Recovery Manager with Wangaratta Council and was recently admitted as a fellow to EHA.

A number of SIG members are now ex-officio members of the EMSIG. Sally-Ann Atkinson, Lyndal Peterson and Seona Liew are currently on maternity leave, and Heather O'Donnell, is back working part time for Department of Human Services.

Of particular note, Max Murphy has resigned from the EMSIG due to work commitments. Max has been a member of our SIG for many years and his contribution to the course has been invaluable. He will be missed.

Branch Presidents' Reports

Victorian Branch (continued)

A plus has been the addition of new EHA members to the EMSIG. Michelle Barrett from Whitehorse City Council joined the SIG and will be completing the Certificate IV Workplace Assessment course in 2008/09. Andrew Murphy from Wodonga Council and Sarah Shearn from City of Glen Eira Council also joined, as did Samantha Kelly from Wellington Shire Council, who very competently presented at the 2007 course on local government's response to recent bushfires, and will again this year.

Financially, the EMSIG continues to be cost effective in its operation and will continue to do so, subject to adequate numbers of participants, maintenance of the accreditation status and support of speakers for the Emergency Management for Public Health Professionals Course, as well as the willingness of members to become active members of the SIG. To become a member of the EMSIG, a member must be a financial member of EHA and have completed the course.

Recent discussions have been held with Jim Smith (National President of EHA) related to our course becoming the standard for a national course throughout Australia. Without the efforts of the original founders of the course, Duncan Moore in particular, and more recently the SIG members involvement and commitment to providing an outstanding course, this would not have been proposed.

In closing, may I extend my sincere appreciation to Branch Council for their support of the EMSIG and the Course, and especially to the EMSIG members listed below for their work and dedication. The roles shown besides each SIG member are roles they undertake in addition to their normal attendance at SIG meetings.

Kirsten Jenkins	Course Convenor, Course Assessor, Exercise Facilitator,
Seona Liew	Senior Assessor, Senior Accreditation Convenor, Exercise Facilitator, Course and Swinburne presenter
Houa Tia	Course Co-ordinator, Course Assessor, Exercise Facilitator, Course presenter and Syndicate Leader
Ross Cairns	Syndicate Leader, Course presenter, Emergency Management Committee Representative, Exercise Facilitator
Heather O'Donnell	Senior Exercise Facilitator
Andrea Spiteri	Senior Exercise Facilitator, Swinburne and Course presenter
Daniela Failla	Swinburne and Course presenter, Exercise Facilitator, Emergency Management Committee Representative
Sally-Ann Atkinson	Exercise Facilitator
Christelle Ray	Exercise Facilitator
Michelle Barrett	Healthline Representative, Syndicate Leader, Exercise Facilitator
Andrew Murphy	Exercise Facilitator, Syndicate Leader
Sarah Shearn	Exercise Facilitator
Sam Kelly	Course Presenter

Kirsten Jenkins MAIEH

EMSIG Convenor

Branch Presidents' Reports

Victorian Branch (continued)

Communicable Diseases and Immunisation Special Interest Group

Members:

Arthur Tsekouras (Convenor), Sarita Kumar, Louis Papageorgiou, Rania Kassab, Adrian White, Kristy Taig, Leanne Auricht, Andrew Mackintosh

Actions:

- Reviewed and commented on the Draft Guidelines for the Investigation and Control of Gastrointestinal Illness.
- Represented EHA on the following Reference Groups/Committees.
- Local Government Immunisation Reference Group
- National Return and Disposal of Unwanted Medicines Ltd
- Steering Committee (Melbourne/Latrobe Universities) to investigate the issues and uptake of the Health Guidelines for Personal Care and Body Art Industries
- Developed Policy Guidelines and Assessment Checklists for the following types of Health Act businesses:
- Prescribed Accommodation
- Skin Penetration
- Hairdressing and Beauty
- Caravan Park and Movable Dwellings
- Commenced the planning of a one day Workshop to assist members to identify, assess and prevent risks in personal care and body art businesses. It is anticipated to hold the Workshop later in the year.

Louis Papageorgiou MAIEH

Communicable Diseases and Immunisation SIG Convenor

Branch Presidents' Reports

Victorian Branch (continued)

Environment Special Interest Group

A number of new members have joined recently and are interested in forming the direction of the group and the issues for EHOs.

Some key achievements of the SIG are as follows: -

- Ongoing participation in the EPA reference group, Onsite Domestic Wastewater Management Policy and Regulation Review. This group includes Water Authorities, Plumber's Registration Board, Local Government Domestic Wastewater SIG, AWA, DHS and MAV.
- Met with DHS - Food Safety and provided input to the Non Potable Water Guide and Water Transport Guidelines review.
- In conjunction with the Australian Water Association, organization of a Wastewater Conference to be held 12-15 October 2008 in Benalla.

The group has an interest in issues which use the wider definition of environment management to encompass such things as

- Air - noise, fumes, dust, smoke, odour.
- Soil - contaminated sites, salinity, land stability.
- Water - wastewater, drinking water, stormwater, recreation.
- Waste - litter, municipal waste, toxic waste.

Some of the key areas the SIG will be pursuing over the next 2 years will include:

- Completing a greywater policy
- Preparing draft policy statements on a number of relevant issues will also be considered.
- Identification of Health Risks due to exposure of environmental factors (eg, greywater/rainwater tanks etc),
- Reviewing any legislative changes that affect the group's area of interest and the role of EHOs.

Thank you to all the members of the SIG for the time that they have put in over the past year. I wish to acknowledge their contribution in making our achievements possible to hopefully enhance our profession, both personally and as a whole.

Members:

Bruce Boxer	- Mitchell Shire
Malcolm Hare	- Mildura
Bruce Mitchell	- Shire of Whittlesea
Robert Beattie	- Kingston
Ray Christy	- Mount Alexander Shire
Skye Scott	- Shire of South Gippsland
Callum Morrison	- Benalla
Con Sekouris	- Bayside
Mark Upton	-Mornington
Andrew Demidowski	- Yarra
Mark Verbaken	- Wodonga
Stuart Symes	- Glen Eira
Suzanne Walker	- Wodonga
Adam Lee	- Surfcoast Shire
David Esmore	- Cardinia Shire.

David Esmore MAIEH

Environment SIG Convenor

Branch Presidents' Reports

Victorian Branch (continued)

Regional Groups Reports

Central Highlands Regional Group

The Central Highlands Regional Group of Environmental Health Australia continues to meet quarterly across the region and as usual we have had a joint meeting with our colleagues in the North West. This year we met at Ballarat, Horsham, Beaufort and Kyneton in an effort to ensure we not only spread the hosting load but our meetings are as accessible as possible.

Our meetings are always lively reflecting the issues faced by EHOs working in relative isolation as sole practitioners or in small teams.

We have always had a strong relationship with our DHS colleagues and this year was no exception with a number of our members able to take advantage of 8 sponsored places at two Investigation Courses. DHS also sponsored a course for Red Card Training to enable us to enter building sites with a minimum of fuss.

There have also been working parties looking at immunisation, OH&S, and the flu pandemic.

We have had a wide range of guest speakers reflecting the particular interests of the members and at our last meeting were pleased to have our National President Jim Smith explaining the benefits of the change to EHA and the upcoming professional development processes available for Environmental Health Professionals

The IFEH congress in Brisbane was another highlight with 7 members attending out of a workforce of about 30. Some of us are already saving to go to Canada in 2010.

One of the pleasing aspects of our group is the cross section of members attending ranging from the retired (if EHOs ever retire) through the range of experience in the work force to those just starting out, who have so much to offer our profession.

It has been a great privilege to be secretary to such a talented welcoming bunch of people.

Alex Serrurier FAIEH

Central Highlands Regional Group Chair

Southern & Eastern Metropolitan Regional Group

The Southern & Eastern Metropolitan Region experienced an eventful year, with excellent attendance and support at meetings that were held around the region at Boroondara, Kingston, Dandenong and Mornington Peninsula.

During the course of the year, a number of guest speakers were invited to present to the group on a variety of issues and topics. These presentations included:

- Rodney Moran (Department of Human Services) Manager - Policy, Planning and Information Program & Acting Manager - Enteric Disease Control Program. Rodney discussed a variety of topics with the group, including the prevalence of gastrointestinal illness and outbreaks, the review of the single incident reporting techniques and the introduction of an 'age of consent' for body piercing.
- Leanne Johnson – Environmental Health Officer at the Department of Human Services (Food Regulation). Leanne shared information with the group in relation to the DHS Food Safety Seminar which was held at the Telstra Dome in April 2008, and discussed the review of the Food Atlas by the Cultural and Linguistically Diverse Food Group.
- George Tsivoulidis – Environment Protection Authority (Southern Region). George provided the group with an overview of the EPA's new focus and specifically about the EPA's new Climate Change program.

The quarterly meetings were also a forum for discussions around topical issues such as food prosecutions, grey water, tobacco reforms, temporary food premises operating at festivals and the impending amendments to the Food Act 1984 and the Health Act 1958. Members also provided the group with updates from the Special Interest Groups and the Branch President and Branch Councillors.

I would like to thank the members for their ongoing attendance at the meetings and for their enthusiasm to share previous experiences, information and advice at each meeting. I would also like to thank the host Councils for their hospitality.

I would like to further encourage all members to attend regional group meetings as they provide a range professional development and networking opportunities. I look forward to seeing some new faces at the 2008/09 meetings.

Tammy Gelley MAIEH

Southern & Eastern Metropolitan Group Secretary

Branch Presidents' Reports

Victorian Branch (continued)

Northwest EHO Network

The North West Region continued to hold quarterly meetings at a variety of venues including Wedderburn, Swan Hill, Horsham and Bendigo. The tradition of a combined meeting between the North West and Central Highlands Regions was also upheld.

The meetings were well attended by all Council's in the region. The predominant issues discussed by the group were unsatisfactory sample results of deli meats, food sampling in general, VCEC report, pandemic influenza planning, immunisation, domestic wastewater management plans and wastewater disposal systems, prosecutions, and general complaints and food safety issues different Council's faced.

A variety of guest speakers attended our meetings to discuss issues common to rural Councils. Speakers and topics included the following;

1. Kevin from Aquatec Environmental Systems focused on low pressure sewer systems for more difficult areas, small blocks, high risk environment areas and pumps into a treatment system/sewer
2. Alissa Heard from Campaspe Shire Council spoke about dealing with the Scout Jamboree held at Elmore and ensuring health risks were minimised.
3. Heather Haines and Leanne Johnson provided an update on the Food Safety Unit (including Water Guidelines Feedback) and State Food Sampling Group Update.
4. Stacey Rowe, Team Leader CDCU introduced herself to the group and provided an update on Unit activities.

All speakers provided important information to the group members.

A big thank you to the host Councils for their fabulous hospitality. I would also like to thank the group members for their attendance and contribution at the meetings. Their eagerness to share experiences, information and advice at every meeting is greatly appreciated by all.

The regional group meetings provide valuable networking opportunities and support professional development for members. I look forward to continuing relationships and meeting new people in our profession at the 2008/09 meetings.

Melanie Holt MAIEH

Northwest EHO Network Secretary

Gippsland Regional Group

The Gippsland Region once again held quarterly meetings at Taralgon, which were all well attended by members. These meetings provided an excellent discussion ground for many issues.

The main issues discussed were the high numbers of infectious disease cases, pandemic influenza planning, septic tanks and domestic wastewater management plans, VCEC report, food sampling and general complaints and food safety issues.

Reports were also given to the group from the various SIG's. Each meeting was also attended by the REHO who gave an update on DHS activities and infectious disease statistics.

The meetings were also attended by some valuable guest speakers including:

- Garry Kay, EPA – Domestic Wastewater Management
- Stacey Rowe, DHS – Enteric Disease Control, including review of Gastrointestinal Investigation Guidelines update
- Leanne Johnson, DHS – Water Guidelines
- Olga Koskie, M & K Lawyers – Registration and Non-Compliance with Food Act

Another popular guest speaker for the year was Robert Atwell. Robert is an EHO for the RAAF Base in East Sale. Robert gave a great insight to the world of an EHO in the air force and impressed everyone with his great tales of EHO life at the front line.

The Gippsland Region also has a separate immunisation group, called the Gippsland Immunisation Reference Group (GIRG). This group meets on a regular basis to share information around the regions and to discuss ways of promoting immunisation and provide feedback on what is happening at the State level. The group includes EHOs, nurses and representatives from the divisions of General Practice. The group's contribution to immunisation in the region is outstanding and we thank them for their great work in this area.

I would like to thank all the members for their contribution throughout yet another busy year and look forward to another successful year in the region.

Laura Tucker MAIEH

Gippsland Regional Group Secretary

Branch Presidents' Reports

Western Australia/Northern Territory Branch

2007 – 2008 has been another successful year for the Western Australia and Northern Territory Branch after the sound result in 2006 – 2007. The continued commitment of members and a very successful Branch Conference have contributed greatly to this year's result. The Branch volunteers including Regional Group Coordinators, Branch Councillors, Committee Members, SIG Conveners and Director Joe Zappavigna have all made a contribution to the efficient operation of the Branch. The continued gains being made by the Branch are a credit to all who have assisted over the reporting period, complemented by the tighter financial management instituted by the Board in the preparation of the Branch budget.

The year saw the departure of Branch Executive Officer, Jackie Breasley after twelve months with the organization and Valarie Filevski was employed initially in a temporary role in Branch Office prior to her appointment as Executive Officer in April 2008. Val is bringing a new approach to member services and I look forward to working with her in the coming year. Another major development for the Branch has been the change in the office accommodation requirements over recent years. After relocating the Branch Office from the Victoria Park premises owned by the organization, it was found that there was no longer a need for a shop-front as few if any members actually visited the new address in Burswood. From June 2008 the executive officer will operate from a home office as is the case in other branches, with meetings arranged at external venues. The Victoria Park office continues to be rented out and remains a major asset of EHA, and a tribute to the foresight of the then Western Australian Division members that arranged the acquisition of this piece of real estate.

The need to enhance and build the extensive membership capacity of the organisation is fundamental to our success and I encourage members to get involved in maintaining and improving membership services. You may have the skills that some of us are lacking that can improve your organisation.

The Branch General Meeting in May 2007 saw Branch Council maintain a number of committed individuals and several new Councillors who are warmly welcomed. The Council operated for the period (May 2007 - May 2008) between Branch General Meetings with the following:

Darren Ponton	– Branch President
Philip Swain	– Vice President
Joseph Zappavigna	– Vice President
Toni Hannelly	– Branch Councillor
Colin Dent	– Branch Councillor
Ross Wells	– Branch Councillor
Peter Stevens	– Branch Councillor
Nathan Russell	– Branch Councillor,
Dimity Hargraves,	– Branch Councillor
Sarah Curnow	– Branch Councillor,
Felix Neuwieler	– Branch Councillor.

Branch Council continued the appointment of two (2) new student representatives (Non Voting) to the Branch Council

and Steve Harling and Megan Kop were elected by the student body at Curtin University of Technology to those positions. We are keen to see the continued involvement and increased liaison that the student representatives bring to the Branch Council.

In July 2007 Dr Emma Young from Bachelor Institute in the Northern Territory was appointed by the Branch Council.

With one Branch Councillor from the Northern Territory and five (5) Branch Councillors who are located in regional areas of Western Australia, the WA/NT Branch Council now has a very wide representation. With the maximum of nine (9) permitted under the By-Laws, the Branch Council for 2007 -2008 is the largest for many years.

The following is a brief summary of activities undertaken by the WA/NT Branch during the reporting period.

Conferences and Training

This financial year an attempt was made to hold regular training events as frequently as monthly if circumstances permitted.

On 23 August 2007 a Waste Management Seminar, was held in South Perth with a focus on environmental impacts of medical waste, and the emerging issue of medical waste generated from home-based treatment options.

At the end of August, EHA in conjunction with Curtin University hosted a 2 week training course on the practice of environmental health in Australia for senior environmental health practitioners in the Malaysian Ministry of Health. The EHPs were given a series of lectures by Western Australian EHPs from state and local government, as well as private industry and the Customs Service. Site visits included Fremantle Ports Authority, refuse recycling facilities, various local government facilities around Perth, as well as a trip to the rural areas of the South West to view mosquito control programs and primary industries. The training tour was an excellent opportunity to refresh the long-standing links between EHPs in Western Australia and Malaysia.

In November 2007 the Branch Council delivered on a commitment to regional groups to provide training opportunities outside Perth, by organizing an Acoustics Workshop to coincide with the South West Regional Group Meeting in November 2007, taking place in Bunbury, 200km south of Perth. The workshop provided practical advice on controlling noise from mechanical services such as air conditioners.

By December 2007 the issues facing the environmental health workforce had become topical and so the final workshop for 2007 featured Dr Richard Lugg chairman of the WA Environmental Health Officers Professional Review Board, outlining the role of the Board, his views on the July Workforce Summit in Brisbane, and in general the future of the profession. The Workforce Workshop, at the Piney Lakes Environment Centre was attended by several experienced practitioners and a robust debate followed.

Branch Presidents' Reports

Western Australia/Northern Territory Branch (continued)

A major undertaking in March 2008 was the 4 day Mosquito Management Course at the Mangrove Resort Hotel, Broome in the Kimberley Region of Western Australia. This course was organised in conjunction with the Mosquito Control section of the WA Department of Health and featured keynote speakers from the Northern Territory Department of Health and Community Services and University of Western Sydney. The Mosquito Management Course has been developed over a period of more than 15 years, and its reputation is such that over 30 participants attended, with one third travelling from the Northern Territory, as well as 2 representatives from Republic of East Timor.

The Branch Council through the guidance of Conference Convener Toni Hannelly conducted the 62nd Branch Conference in May 2008, to provide a positive outcome for the EHA Board and members within WA and NT. This timing, later in the financial year, has become a regular feature of the Branch timetable. The conference was the most successful in many years with excellent feedback regarding most features of the event from members and non-members alike.

Additionally, in conjunction with the Branch Conference, vocational training forums on Construction Site Occupational Health & Safety (graduates received a WorkSafe WA 'blue card'), and First Aid were conducted to allow environmental health practitioners to widen their role into the future. Other specific technical training was conducted on the day preceding the conference including intensive training on a popular model of sound level meter used by local governments, as well as a presentation by the Department of Environment and Conservation Pollution Management section on a variety of air quality measurement equipment and other devices for detecting pollution, that are available for EHPs.

The Branch Council will produce a further series of contemporary and informative conference and training forums for the 2008–2009 year. Consultation with members had already begun before the end of the financial year, and after the success of the preconference vocational training workshops and training in regional areas in 2007-2008, a focus on this style will be a feature of future professional development activities.

Special Interest Group Reports

Special Interest Groups currently active for the Branch are Food, Environmental Management, Indigenous Health, Emergency Management, Disease Control/Health Promotion, Waste Management, Planning & Building Control, International and Health Impact Assessment. The tyranny of distance that applies to our Branch means that regular meetings of SIG members as conducted by other Branches are impossible for members in WA and NT. A rationalisation of SIGs to align with the National SIG categories will continue.

Food Special Interest Group

"Consumption of food is one of the most intimate relationships mankind has with the Environment. Food Safety worldwide remains a major public health concern, receives considerable media attention, influences political policy and is at the forefront of public awareness".

The WA/NT Branch Food Special Interest Group (SIG) has, during the year, been involved in the development of positions in respect of the proposed introduction of the model Food Act within this state.

Membership of the SIG

In 2007 – 2008 there were approximately 63 members of the Food SIG. The SIG has provided regular liaison between members and comment on various proposals throughout the year.

Achievements for 2007-2008:

- Promotion of I'M ALERT Food Safety CD-Rom and website
- Promotion of Food Safety Week
- Circulation of FSANZ newsletters

Disease Control/Health Promotion Special Interest Group

The Disease Control/Health Promotion Special Interest Group (SIG) was established to provide an email forum for exchange of information and related issues for members of the EHA. Its structure links into the EHA National SIG structure enabling national issues to be quickly disseminated to members and providing an avenue for a prompt response.

Disease control and health promotion are playing an increasing role in an EHO's professional activities. Health promotion strategies of program planning, implementation and evaluation are useful for all EHOs when designing programs which may not be directly contained within the definition of 'health promotion'. The SIG contributed to the EHA becoming a member of the Australian Council on Smoking and Health (ACOSH) in 2006.

Communicable diseases are on the increase worldwide, with both existing and emerging diseases claiming lives on almost every continent. SARS, vCJD, Avian Influenza and Marburg Haemorrhagic Fever are causing increasing concern for health authorities in the twenty-first century, with the more recognisable diseases of Poliomyelitis, Ebola and Cholera also of continuing concern.

The SIG has steadily increased its membership to 40 with the addition of student members. SIG members aim to communicate regularly by email, with interaction between members generally via the Convener, and membership list maintained by the EHA WA/NT Branch Office. All communication is designed to be two-way participation.

Toni Hannelly, MAIEH

Disease Control/Health Promotion SIG Convener

Branch Presidents' Reports

Western Australia/Northern Territory Branch (continued)

Environmental Management Special Interest Group

Environmental management is an integrated and interdisciplinary approach to sustainability, being to manage and protect our natural, built and social environments.

Environmental management is one of many key responsibilities of Environmental Health Practitioners. The Environmental Management Special Interest Group (EM-SIG) aims to develop written policy positions in respect of environmental management using experience, knowledge and skills of its members. (www.eh.org.au/sigs/environman.php).

Where EHA Members have a special interest or can access industry and professional information for the group, then they are encouraged to join this SIG and to participate. The SIG provides a forum and connection to its members to share information relevant to its purpose and objectives. This SIG also incorporates catchment management issues.

When the SIG Convenor receives relevant e-mails or relevant information it is posted on the web based forum. The Convenor will ensure that the group is aware of the SIG Member's proposal and seek comment so that the SIG continues to be relevant to its Members.

Purpose

The purpose of the SIG is to:

1. Promote knowledge, activities and projects related to environmental management in the field of environmental health;
2. Pass on relevant environmental management information to SIG members;
3. Develop policy or a position for EHA on related issues; and
4. Comment, in a timely manner on relevant environmental management policy and legislation.

The SIG convenor will recommend to the EHA Legislation Review Committee of the position that the EHA could adopt in relation to environmental management issues.

Objectives

The objectives of the SIG are to:

1. Encourage SIG Members to attend relevant courses, seminars and special events;
2. Promote and improve liaison between environment agencies and SIG Members;
3. Promote the role of SIG Members in environmental issues at all levels in the community, including all levels of government; and
4. Distribute information on environmental management to SIG Members in a timely manner.

Joseph Zappavigna coordinates the WA/NT SIG. The SIG has steadily increased its membership with the addition of student and associate members and in 2007 had 53 members. SIG members aim to communicate regularly by e-mail.

Joseph Zappavigna MAIEH

Environmental Management SIG Convenor

Branch Presidents' Reports

Western Australia/Northern Territory Branch (continued)

Indigenous Environmental Health SIG

“Good environmental health conditions are an essential requirement for maintaining and improving the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities”.

Environmental Health is concerned with creating and maintaining environments that promote good public health by addressing those aspects of human health determined by physical, chemical, biological and social factors in the environment.

Whilst a long and healthy life is an achievable goal for most Australians, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities suffer higher than average levels of morbidity and mortality. There is evidence that these populations suffer disproportionate impact from both increased exposures to environmental hazards and decreased access to services.

The environments in which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples live are recognised as having a strong impact on health. Addressing the environmental risks can play an important part in enhancing the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders. The SIG believes EHA needs to develop a policy position in relation to Aboriginal Environmental Health.

The Branch Indigenous Environmental Health Special Interest Group (SIG) has been working to highlight and address issues relevant to improving the environmental health conditions for Indigenous persons.

Membership of the SIG

There were around 59 members of the Indigenous EH SIG, across Western Australia and Northern Territory. The SIG has provided regular liaison between members and comment on proposals throughout the year.

Sarah Curnow MAIEH

Indigenous Environmental Health SIG Convener

Branch Presidents' Reports

Western Australia/Northern Territory Branch (continued)

Regional Group Reports

The WA/NT Branch has continued to support a Regional Group network during the year however several groups have elected not to be part of EHA and hence bound by its Constitution and Bylaws. The groups currently associated with EHA are the Northwest Group, Great Southern Group, South West Group, Eastern Goldfields Group and the Northern Territory Group. All groups have met during the year with the exception of the Northern Territory Group. Groups have continued to provide an opportunity for professional networking and updates on a variety of issues during the reporting period.

The Branch Council is continuing to provide reports and where possible an attendee at meetings of Regional Groups that have left the organisation, although all financial support of these has ceased.

North West Region

The North West Regional Group had another successful year this year with two meetings being held, one in Broome and the other held in conjunction with the Branch Conference in Fremantle. It was very beneficial having a meeting in Fremantle this year as it allowed the group to meet with other members and staff of EHA, including Branch President Darren Ponton, Branch Councillors and Branch Executive Officer Valarie Filevski. The group was also fortunate to have members of the Department of Health at both meetings. One of the main issues discussed at the meetings was the shortage of experienced EHOs in regional areas and what can be done to rectify this problem.

The North West Regional Group assisted with organising a 4 day Mosquito Management Course in Broome in March 2008. This course was made available to employees of the mining companies operating in the North West that have become increasingly important in the management of environmental health. The group is looking forward to more courses in the North West next year.

The group includes both EHOs and Aboriginal Field Support Officers in 2007 in the Kimberley region and is well supported by the Department of Health.

Like many regions a priority has been dealing with the issues of Murray Valley Encephalitis throughout the region. In some areas it is still prevalent and this remains a significant environmental health challenge for the group members into the future.

South West Region

The South West Regional Group met on three (3) occasions during the year to discuss a variety of contemporary environmental health issues, and hosted the EHA organized Acoustics Workshop in Bunbury. The Branch President attended one meeting, whilst Branch Councillor Colin Dent attended all meetings.

Great Southern Region

The Great Southern Regional Group met regularly during the year to discuss a variety of contemporary environmental health issues.

Mid West Region

The Mid West Regional Group met on two (2) occasions during the year to discuss a variety of contemporary environmental health issues. The Branch President attended one meeting in Geraldton, whilst Branch Councillor Felix Neuwiler attended other meetings.

Northern Territory Regional Group

The group did not meet during the year due to significant staff movements within the region, however discussion had been underway between Branch Councillors and an active group of members in this region to hold a meeting in November 2007. Environmental Health in the Northern Territory is a priority for the Branch, and the Branch Council has arrangements in place for a Branch Councillor from the Territory to act as a Regional Group Secretary in the 2008 - 2009 financial year.

Eastern Goldfields Regional Group

The group did not meet during the year due to significant staff movements within the region.

Conclusion

I would like to thank the members and the many volunteers who have supported the Branch throughout 2007 - 2008 and I look forward to working with you in the interest of environmental health for the coming year.

Darren Ponton MAIEH

Branch President WA/NT Branch

Other Activities

Australian Food Safety Assessment (AFSA)

AFSA and EHA's Food Safety Standard of Practice were launched in September 2003. Developed by the Food Management Working Group, these tools have been developed to promote accountability and consistency in the monitoring of food safety standards by Environmental Health Practitioners. In keeping with the goal of accountability and consistency of practice in the profession, non-users are encouraged to consider the benefits that AFSA can bring to their workplace.

Open Office and ioGlobal now have eAFSA available in the suite of products and several workplaces have pursued development of eAFSA in-house as a preferable option. To enable the use of preferred providers and expand the availability of eAFSA, EHA welcomes new partnerships with software developers. Further information and contact details for Open Office and ioGlobal can be found at www.eh.org.au/afsa/eafsa.php.

AFSA, Designer AFSA and eAFSA are marketed by Mina Labaz, Executive Officer SA Branch.

Ian Hawkins MAIEH

Chairperson, Food Management Working Group

Other Activities

FoodSafe®

FoodSafe® is an in-house training program that brings basic food hygiene information directly to food handlers. Once the food handlers have undergone basic food safety training and demonstrated that they have implemented the food safety practices, an Environmental Health Officer recognises this achievement by awarding the FoodSafe® Certificate and window sticker. FoodSafe® was developed by the then AIEH in 1996 and underwent a revision in 2003 to align with the national Food Safety Standards. FoodSafe® PLUS is the 'second step' for food businesses already holding FoodSafe® certification that want to develop their own food safety program to manage food safety risks. FoodSafe® PLUS applies the principles of hazard analysis critical control point (HACCP) to guide the business through the FoodSafe® PLUS Manual to develop their own Quality Policy Statement. Both FoodSafe® and FoodSafe® PLUS are unique in the marketplace, as they are competitively priced and allow the business to implement the program at their own pace, with the assistance of EHPs.

FoodSafe® has performed reasonably well under the revised version although budget targets were not met in terms of sales. As the FoodSafe® office was without an executive officer from November 2006 to February 2007, there was no marketing during this period, and sales were administered by volunteers and a contracted executive assistant. The profit for FoodSafe® (after stock write-off) fell short of expectation which has also highlighted the need for the organisation to invest in the product to ensure its future viability.

Despite an innovative legislative framework for food safety, sales of FoodSafe® in Victoria remained low until mid 2007. A reason for this was a sales push in 2006, and the attendance of the FoodSafe® Executive Officer at the 2007 Victorian Branch Conference. Additionally, the training program within FoodSafe®, is an excellent tool for Victoria's accredited Food Safety Supervisors to use to train their subordinates.

Demand for the new DVD which includes a menu format and additional material, such as the 'Welcome to FoodSafe®' presentation in English, and six (6) Asian languages, was sufficiently high for EHA to now sell the DVDs separately to existing customers.

The EHA Board accepted a report from the CEO and FoodSafe® Committee to develop an On-line Learning version of the FoodSafe® program. There is now a demand for this format from many larger industries that have dispersed food handling staff such as facility management companies and child-care chains. The proposed launch date is early in the 2008-2009 financial year. The draft version of the on line learning website has been refined several times to ensure it is user friendly resulting in a revised release date

Darren Ponton MAIEH

Chair, FoodSafe® Committee

Other Activities

I'M ALERT Online

November 2007 saw the launch of I'M ALERT Food Safety Training Online following the 2006 release of the CD version of the product proving to be a great resource for both Local and State Governments that purchased the product.

As a result of customer demand for online training, the program was adapted. Local Governments can subscribe to I'M ALERT Food Safety Online Training and have the program linked to their Council website for an annual subscription. The training pages are co-badged with EHA and Local Government logos as are all print-outs from within the program (e.g. temperature recording sheets, cleaning schedules, certificate of training etc).

The new subscriber is provided with a range of co-badged marketing materials including flyers and print media templates to assist them to market the program to their food businesses. Food handlers can visit their Council website and follow the links to conduct the food safety training free of charge, as many times as they wish. Feedback such as this testimonial has been very positive, "...The program is really entertaining and all of our staff at the centre were happy to participate. They could do it in their own time, either at work or at home. It's fantastic that our Council provides this." Director Child Care Centre, Qld. One Local Government held an official 'Launch' of I'M ALERT Online in their area supported by the Minister for Health and other local dignitaries.

EHA is the exclusive marketing and distribution agent, receiving royalties on sales of the product, believing it to be a very reasonably priced tool affording Local Government and Organisations the opportunity to offer inexpensive training to all food business proprietors and food handlers in their jurisdiction.

Waikay Lau MAIEH
Chief Executive Officer

Electric Vehicles

the Way of the Future

Yes it is here! An Electric Vehicle that runs on the smell of an "oily rag". Actually it runs on about \$1.00 per 120km. That is truly an economical vehicle.

The car is the brainchild of Blade Electric Vehicles director Ross Blade. After several prototypes, it is the first production vehicle. The cars for sale will be a fully electric, plug-in version of the Getz. As an electric car the Getz will have zero emissions and will be the first electric car available in Australia. The Getz is a retro-fit electric car, meaning that the batteries and electric motor are fitted to the car after the petrol engine is taken out. This process will be undertaken at Blades Workshop in Harcourt Victoria.

He's developed what the CSIRO recognizes as Australia's first zero emissions electric car. All the power with none of the pollution, it's called the Blade Runner.

Ross and his mechanic Richard start with a standard combustion-engine-driven Hyundai Getz, and then they gut it.

"You've got your engine. The other components that come out, you've got your exhaust system there's quite a bit of weight in the exhaust system. [The] Radiator as well," Ross said.

That makes the vehicles a lot lighter, and now all they need is power.

In the past electric models have been criticized because some power generation, especially brown coal power, is disastrous for the environment. But Ross urges his clients to power their cars using solar cells stored on their home roofs.

Or alternatively he says the cars should be run on green electricity available from most power companies for a little more than regular power. Either way it's a lot cheaper than petrol.

"Even with green power you are looking at \$2.50 per hundred kilometres with one of these electric cars," Ross said.

This electric car has very few moving parts so it requires minimal servicing and Ross believes that's one reason why the major car companies have been so sluggish in coming up with their own electric alternatives.

Melton, Moorabool and Nillumbik Shire Councils join a growing list of all electric car buyers. Maribyrnong Council has purchased three vehicles. At a council meeting on April 17th 2007 Maribyrnong City Council passed a resolution to become carbon neutral across council operations by 2015. Green powered electric vehicles will help meet the goal.

This vehicle is ideal for councils and shires that travel comparatively short distances.



Blade Runner Electric Car Plug-n-Go



Specifications:-

Performance	0 – 60KPH in 7 seconds
Top Speed	120 KPH Retro Fitted Hyundi Getz
Range	120 Km in urban areas
Drive	2 Gear Drive
Fuel Cells	Lithium Iron Phosphate
Recharge Time	30 amps 240V = 3 Hrs 15amps 240 V = 7Hrs 10amps 240V =9 Hrs
Cost of Energy	Off-peak approximately \$1.00 per charge Peak green power \$2.50 per charge
Air Conditioning	Yes
Power Steering	Yes
Occupants	4
Warranty	5 years on Labour, manufactures warranty

Reduce your Carbon Foot Print & Preserve the Atmosphere

Blade Electric vehicles is now producing a retrofitted Hyundai Getz all electric vehicle.

The vehicle is capable of 0 to 60KPH in 7 seconds and can travel 100 Kilometres for just a \$1.00, or if you wish to purchase "green electricity" just approximately \$2.50.

This makes the Blade Electric Vehicle a very worthwhile and economical choice for metro driving. Obviously Shires and Councils who purchase fleets of vehicles mainly for short journeys makes the Blade Electric Vehicle an ideal alternative reducing running cost significantly and also much kinder to the environment.

Blade Electric Vehicles Pty Ltd

EV Consultants & Developers R&D
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Enquiries: Ross Blade Director
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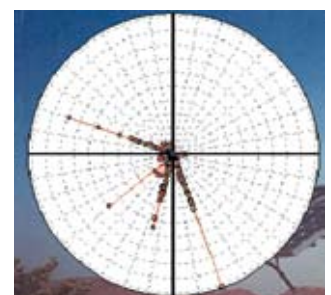
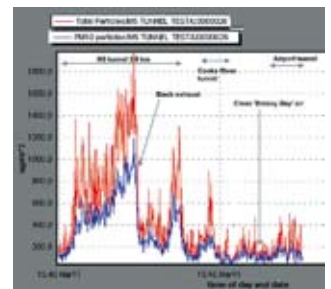
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NOT EASY TO GET TO?
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requirements.**

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City of Playford's Initiative

to Aid in the Water Proofing of the Northern Suburbs of Adelaide



The City of Playford Council has been involved in a number of water-saving projects in the past ten years, helping to sustain and maintain effective water management.

Through initiatives such as stormwater harvesting and reuse, Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR), flood management and water quality control, Council is taking positive steps to help the community of Playford play an active role in improving water efficiency within the region.

ASR involves the storage of stormwater in underground aquifers after it has been cleansed in wetlands. The water is usually harvested and stored during the winter and then reused later in the drier months in place of water from the Murray.

One of Council's projects, The Adams Creek flood mitigation and ASR, was completed in 2007. The project will provide flood protection for downstream properties, improve creek water quality; reduce reliance on mains water for irrigating schools, parks and reserves; and furthermore, it will deliver environmental and educational opportunities for the community and local students. The project received \$1.3 million of funding from the Federal Government through the Sustainable Regions Program as well as funding by the City of Playford and the City of Salisbury councils. In addition the wetlands provide an attractive community recreation facility.

Playford project manager Adrian Swiatnik is pleased with the success of the project which has had overwhelming support from the Playford community.

"Community feedback following completion of the Adams Creek wetlands has been very positive, with the site receiving a recent Landscaping Association of South Australia award for most environmentally sensitive project," he said.

The Federally funded Waterproofing Northern Adelaide Project, spans the Playford, Salisbury and Tea Tree Gully

region and aims to provide sustainable resources for efficient water management.

The Australian Government Water Fund has granted the project \$38 million with \$10.4 million going to the City of Playford.

The Project will incorporate many effective strategies, such as harvesting and treating stormwater and using ASR for relief during the dry seasons, helping to reduce the reliance

on the Murray River. These measures will see wetland treated stormwater injected into the Northern Adelaide Plains groundwater system and used for industrial and urban irrigation as well as non-drinking uses around the home. As a result, the unnecessary usage of drinking water will be reduced by six per cent, which equates to 12.1 gigalitres of drinking water used in this region per year.

On top of that, the Waterproofing Northern Adelaide Project will reduce costs to the community and industry sectors by 30-40% compared to current mains water charges.

One of the developments currently running, the Andrews Farm ASR Extension Scheme, is well on its way and is expected to be completed by December this year. The new wetlands, situated next to St Columba College, will be three times more efficient than the existing wetlands and will recycle approximately 320 megalitres of water annually.

Similar projects in the Playford region following the Andrews Farm Extension Scheme are the Munno Para West Capture & Treatment wetlands and the Andrews Farm South wetlands & ASR, which includes a proposed golf course. "At each wetland and ASR site, Council is aiming to achieve multiple benefits for the community including stormwater harvesting and reuse, flood mitigation, improved amenity, biodiversity, natural habitat and community recreation facilities", says Mr Swiatnik.

A relatively new development which plans to be incorporated into the Waterproofing Northern Adelaide Project is the third-pipe strategy.

Traditionally, two pipes are used in the water industry – a water main to bring the water in and a sewer main to take the water away. With the third-pipe strategy, an extra pipe is installed which supplies recycled water for non-drinking purposes. The recycled water used is a combination of both treated stormwater and treated sewerage taken from Bolivar

and has been successfully trialled in the new developments in Mawson Lakes for approximately three years.

Chris Kaufmann, the Executive Officer of the Waterproofing Northern Adelaide Regional Subsidiary (WNARS) predicts the third-pipe strategy has the potential to halve Adelaide's drinking water needs.

"By using the third-pipe you actually substitute about half the water that would normally be used in the house that doesn't need to be of drinking water quality," he said.

New subdivisions in all three councils will be going in with third-pipe which will significantly reduce the region's use of drinking water.

Population projections predict that by 2036, northern Adelaide is expected to grow from 350,000 in 2007 to 509,000. Of the 62,500 new dwellings, it is expected that 80% of these will have third-pipe. This will in turn help minimise the need for drinking water in this region which will inevitably be increased. Current predictions show that the population growth will see the use of drinking water increase from 40 gigalitres in 2007 to 50-55 gigalitres per year. Mr Kaufmann hopes the Waterproofing Northern Adelaide project can, at the very least, substitute the 15GL of drinking water that the region needs with recycled water.

So instead of having something that just went out to sea as a disposal problem and a contaminant of the sea ... we can turn it into a sustainable resource.

"And along the way, we sustain the environmental flows and waterways. We actually enhance the waterways, produce a variety of features and allow the area to remain with a good standard of urban irrigation so the recreation facilities can be used even through the drought.

"That's the regional subsidiary's goal," he said.

Furthermore, by using naturally treated urban stormwater, Adelaide can reduce the water it takes from the Murray – approximately 90-180 gigalitres annually, leaving an average of 100 gigalitres of water a year in the Murray for environmental uses.

While the wetland developments are in progress and set to be completed by 2010, the third-pipe strategy for new subdivisions is still waiting for funding by the LMC to incorporate the use of treated sewerage with the treated stormwater.



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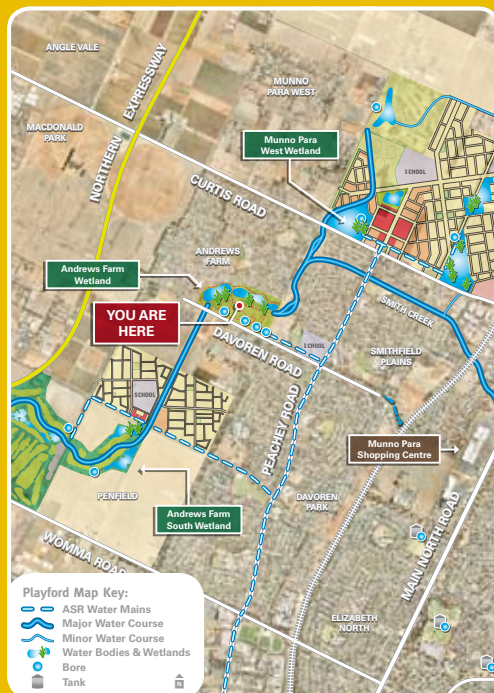


Australian Government Water Fund
Water Smart Australia



Waterproofing Northern Adelaide (WNA) is a collaborative project to improve urban water management in Adelaide's northern region. WNA is being undertaken by the Cities of Playford, Salisbury and Tea Tree Gully, with the assistance of a \$41.8 million grant from the Australian Government's Water Smart Australia program as well as State Government, the Natural Resource Management board and private partners.

Waterproofing Northern Adelaide



Andrews Farm Wetland Stebonheath Flow Control Park - more than a wetland

This site is one of 4 new wetlands being constructed along Smith Creek to harvest and re-use up to 1,800 mega-litres of stormwater which would otherwise flow into Barker Inlet.

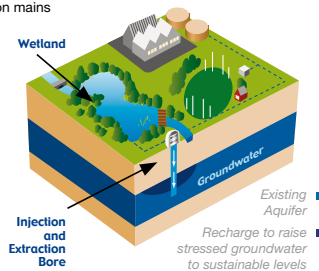
Stormwater from the Smith Creek catchment enters these wetlands where it is naturally filtered and cleansed by reed beds before being injected into the underground aquifer for storage. This water is then extracted during dry periods and used to irrigate and beautify local parks, schools and reserves while reducing reliance on mains water supplies.

Here at Andrews Farm a significant reconstruction program in 2008 aimed for a **60% increase in wetland area**, allowing this site to capture and store up to 400 mega-litres of stormwater per year – equal to the amount needed to fill **200 Olympic size swimming pools**.

Apart from capturing and cleansing stormwater for irrigation, this wetland provides flood protection and generates outstanding educational opportunities for the community and students.

Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR)

Capture and cleansing of stormwater in urban wetlands, injection into the groundwater from bores and extraction of groundwater for irrigation of public spaces and industrial use.



For more information visit www.playford.sa.gov.au OR www.wna.sa.gov.au

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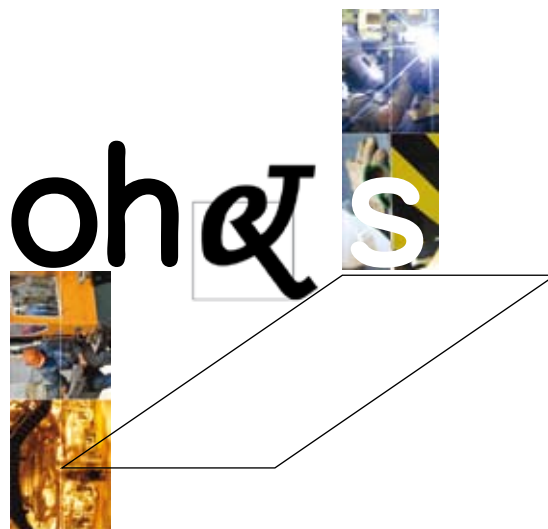
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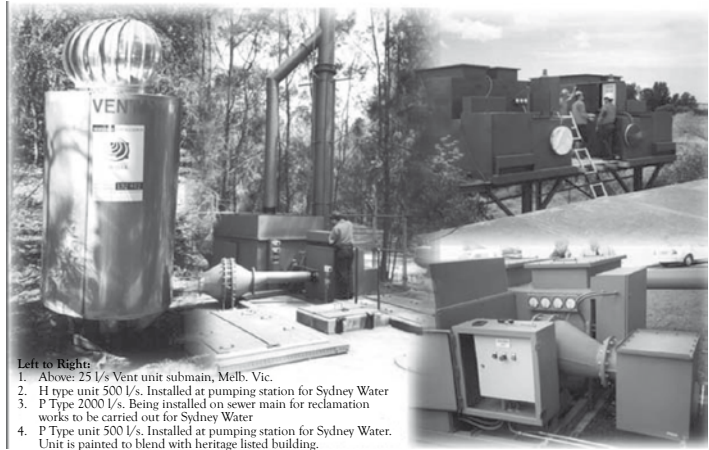
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Left to Right:
 1. Above: 25 l/s Vent unit submain, Melb. Vic.
 2. H type unit 500 l/s. Installed at pumping station for Sydney Water
 3. P Type 2000 l/s. Being installed on sewer main for reclamation works to be carried out for Sydney Water
 4. P Type unit 500 l/s. Installed at pumping station for Sydney Water. Unit is painted to blend with heritage listed building.

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Government Skills Australia supports EHA's vision to address national skill shortages for environmental health

Government Skills Australia (GSA), as the national industry skills council for government and community safety, is pleased to support the vision and commitment of Environmental Health Australia (EHA) to addressing the current skills shortage.

Andy Smith, the GSA Local Government Industry Advisory Officer, has established regular communication between EHA and GSA to ensure that the Local Government Training Package reflects the important role of Environmental Health Technicians by including appropriate qualifications and units of competency.

Key initiatives the two organisations will continue to focus on include:

- » Recognition of the role of Environmental Health Technicians and provision of a career path within the Local Government Training Package;
- » Professional development opportunities for both organisations to meet the needs of members and stakeholders;
- » Progressing discussions relating to articulation between the VET sector and the higher education sector for the environmental health industry;
- » Promoting work experience and on-the-job training within the local government sector; and
- » Identifying complementary roles and skills within the local government sector and environmental health industry.

GSA supports EHA's strong commitment to the VET sector. EHA is a Registered Training Organisation that offers units of competency from the Local Government Training Package. During the coming year, GSA will assist EHA to expand its scope of registration to include units of competency in the areas of prosecution, health impact, emergency management and noise management.

Innovative forms of delivery are also encouraged and GSA is pleased to acknowledge the keen interest in web-based and flexible delivery strategies being explored by EHA as part of its nationally recognised training interest.

GSA and EHA will progress a number of strategies and projects in 2009 including the mapping of career pathways for environmental health workers. A key aspect of capacity building within the industry will focus on how GSA and EHA can work together to recognise the contribution and potential of the existing workforce. The reskilling of existing workers in the local government sector to take more active roles within the environmental health industry by completing appropriate qualifications will be showcased and encouraged.

A similar project that will also contribute to the capacity building of the sector will include the identification of case studies of young people who are already working in the environmental health industry. These case studies will be used to promote the industry to school leavers thus attracting new workers to the local government sector.

www.governmentskills.com.au

Reducing Your Risk

In the workplace there are many high risk factors that can impact on employee safety. One Occupational Health and Safety element often overlooked by employers is driving. The operation of any type of motor vehicle is an activity that can cause some of the most serious injuries and fatalities in the workplace.

The importance of providing a safe working environment is every employers duty of care, and under OH & S regulations, this includes motor vehicle usage.

Sadly, many organisations don't understand the legal implications if an employee is involved in an accident. With the constant introduction of new technologies in modern vehicles, it is easy for even an experienced driver to not fully understand how this technology functions. Driver benefits such as ABS (anti lock braking), SSPS (speed sensitive power steering), ESP (elec-tronic stability programme) and SRS (supplementary restraint systems), all impact on safety - provided the driver knows what will happen in the real world. Putting unaware or unskilled drivers behind the wheel, in the work environment, is a deadly recipe. Holding a standard drivers licence does little more than satisfy statutory regulations.

For over 30 years, Ian Luff Motivation Australia has been involved in post licence driver development, specialising in risk reduction strategies and

programmes designed to benefit organisations, both large and small.

Drive to Survive onsite workshops are available, which focus on increasing driver awareness, fatigue management, exploring vehicle limitations and the impairment of judgement and delayed reaction rates caused by alcohol and drugs. The two-hour duration minimises staff down time, allows for uniformity of training standards nationally and internationally, and when combined with efficient driving strategies reduces fleet running costs and toxic emissions.

The workshops provide an engaging interactive experience for employees, with the added benefit of motivating behaviour change through positive influence.

Ian Luff Motivation Australia can also provide formalised corporate safe driving policy documents that outline employer and employee requirements and their obligations when driving a company vehicle. Fleet management can be a very costly part of any business. Improving driver behaviour is an effective way to reduce risk and grow your bottom line.

Don't waste another minute, call Ian Luff Motivation Australia to reduce risk by creating a safe environment for all environments and minimise the chances of litigation caused by negligence.

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Ian Luff Motivation Australia has developed Onsite Training Workshops that are conducted nationally, at your premises.

To minimise staff downtime, ensuring productivity, the highly interactive and cost effective sessions will be limited to two hour duration.

Drivers will learn efficient driving tactics that will reduce fleet running costs and toxic emissions.

Workshops also focus on increasing driver awareness, fatigue management, defensive driving strategies, and the outcomes of high risk behaviour.

Enquire today and find out just how cost effective our Onsite Training Workshops are, and play your part in reducing the carbon footprint polluting Australia.

Allow us to work with your team to create a cleaner and greener environment.



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