


# ANNUAL REPORT 2010



- 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



# Annual Report 2009-2010

## Environmental Health Australia

ABN 58 000 031 998

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# National President's Report

## Environmental Health Australia

Environmental health is a particularly important and diverse field and one that has to be responsive to the ever-increasing new challenges faced locally, nationally and internationally. These characteristics also have a strong influence on professional associations and their members, with this year being quite significant for Environmental Health Australia. Prior to the Annual General Meeting in Hobart in November 2009, the Board of Directors and State Presidents had been engaged in substantial discussion, consultation and options analysis regarding the most effective and sustainable business model for our organization. Based on these activities, a devolved model of operation was presented to the Hobart AGM and this was overwhelmingly supported by members. The key features of this model were that the State Branches, which were currently operational units of the national company, were to become independent state incorporated associations whose focus was to be on local membership services, while the national company then concentrated on providing national representation and advocacy as well as implementing national initiatives regarding workforce and professional development.

To enable the new operational structure to be successful, the Board felt that the initial focus for resourcing should be on setting-up the new State Associations and so this resulted in a substantial reduction in resources and capacity at the national level. A key result of this was that our long-serving CEO, Mr Waikay Lau finished-up at the end of 2009. The Board is extremely grateful to Mr Lau for his tireless efforts over the last seven to eight years and we wish him the very best in his future endeavours. Another significant action taken as part of the restructure was the sale of a key asset that we held – office space in a building in Perth. The proceeds from the sale provided critical resources to enable the State Associations and the national company remain viable. A proportion of the proceeds were retained by the national company to fund national initiatives/projects, with the remainder of the funds equally divided among the State Associations.

In March 2010, each of the State Branches was incorporated as a State Association and they have been successfully operating as independent associations since this date. Even though the States

are organizationally independent, we are currently finalizing a service agreement between the national company and state associations to reflect our ongoing working relationships in order to protect and enhance the EHA brand and to ensure seamless service provision and operation.

At a national level, the national company has been active in providing representation, particularly through involvement with *enHealth*, and has been working on a number of key initiatives regarding workforce and professional development. These include: partnering with *enHealth* on a project to review our current university course accreditation policy and process; developing implementation processes of our CEHP and CPD schemes; review of the *Environmental Health* journal to ensure a more sustainable approach to publishing this valuable resource; revision of our EHA website to make it more functional and attractive; implementation of a new policy development process; investigating new opportunities for our RTO; and implementing more effective strategic and operational planning processes. Obviously these projects will require substantial resourcing and consultation and will take some time to complete, but it is intended that these projects be rolled-out during 2010-2011.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the substantial efforts made by the staff and elected officers of EHA. The Executive Officers for each State continue to do a sterling job and often go above and beyond the call of duty to provide high quality service to members. I am therefore most thankful and grateful for our EOs who are the glue that holds our organization together. I am also extremely thankful to all those members who have contributed this year to the organization by either taking on elected roles at a national or state level or by helping to organize the large number of events that have been run across the country – your commitment and professionalism is truly humbling.

Overall, 2009-2010 has been a challenging year due to being a year of reorganization and consolidation, however, I am confident that our efforts this year have laid a strong foundation for a more sustainable and effective EHA into the future.

Dr Thomas Tenkate FEHA  
National President

# Board of Directors

## Environmental Health Australia



*National President  
(to Aug 2009)*

### Dr Jim Smith LFEHA

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).



*National President  
(from Sep 2009)*

### Dr Thomas Tenkate FEHA

Dr Thomas Tenkate has lectured in environmental health at the QUT School of Public Health since 2003 and is the Postgraduate Course Coordinator for the public health programs and subject area coordinator for environmental health. Thomas holds a Dr PH in environmental health 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.

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.



*Vice President  
(to Oct 2009)*

### Fleur Cousins FEHA

Fleur holds a Bachelor of Applied Science (Environmental Health) and Diploma of Management and has been working in the area of Environmental Health for 13 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 2005.

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, Co-convener 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



(from Dec 2009)

### Joseph Zappavigna MEHA

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 fourteenth 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 first elected as a Director on the Board of EHA to participate and contribute with the CEO and other Directors in the business and strategic plans of EHA. Joseph urges those Environmental Health Practitioners considering membership of EHA to act now and make their contribution to the worthwhile profession of environmental health.



(to Jun 2010)

### Darren Ponton MEHA

Darren Ponton joined 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 2006. In November 2008, he was successfully nominated by the WA/NT Branch to the EHA Board as Director, whereupon he stepped down as Branch President and accepted Vice Presidency of the WA/NT Branch.

Darren is currently the Principal Environmental Health Officer at the City of Canning, a challenging region with two industrial areas containing some of the state's largest food manufacturers, as well as a mixed residential population and the environmentally sensitive Canning River Regional Park. He has held this position held since July 2007. Prior to this, he was Environmental Health Co-ordinator at the City of Perth, for twelve of the twenty years he worked at City of Perth. He has been Chairperson of the National FoodSafe® Committee, and former Food Safety Special Interest Group Convenor in WA.

As well as a Degree in Environmental Health, Darren's qualifications include an MBA in Health Services Administration, and Graduate Diplomas in Public Health, Health Administration and Public Sector Management. He is currently completing a Masters in Urban and Regional Planning at Curtin University.



(to Oct 2009)

### Professor Nancy Cromar MEHA

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).



# Board of Directors

## Environmental Health Australia



(to Jul 2009)

### Stephen Davidson FEHA

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..



(to Feb 2010)

### Ron Fry MEHA

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 and a Bachelor of Adult Vocation and Education from the University of Tasmania in 1997.

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.



(to Dec 2009)

### Kate Oliver AEHA

Kate's qualifications include a Bachelor of Laws and Legal Practice (Hons) and a Bachelor of Behavioural Science. She currently works as a lawyer with Norman Waterhouse in Adelaide, a multi-service law firm that specialises in local government. Kate's practice involves the provision of advice to local government clients on a range of matters including the following:

- governance related issues, including meeting procedures, delegations and authorisations; and
- regulatory matters, including the issuing of notices and the undertaking of prosecution under various pieces of legislation administered by local government.

A large part of Kate's practice consists of advising and representing local government in relation to public and environmental health matters and food matters. She has established herself as a leading practitioner in the environmental health field and is actively involved in the provision of training to Environmental Health Officers across South Australia and has a strong interest in the establishment of best practice initiatives for Environmental Health Officers and local government generally. In particular, Kate has had extensive involvement in the establishment of template instruments of delegation and authorisation for Environmental Health Officers and other officers of local government to assist local government in ensuring the effective and lawful exercise of powers by those officers.

# Board of Directors

## Environmental Health Australia



*(from Dec 2009)*

### Grant Steen FEHA

Grant Steen has been involved in local government environmental health in Queensland for more than forty years, and was first admitted as an Affiliate to the (then) Australian Institute of Health Surveyors in 1973. He has post-graduate management qualifications and been involved in EH at management level since the early 90's. At the time of 2008 Queensland local government amalgamations he was Townsville City Council's Director of Environmental Services, and post-amalgamation has been engaged in corporate executive projects at Townsville.

Grant's main interests are in waste management, environmental protection and climate change response. He was a founding member of regional bodies LAWMAC (waste) and HESROC (EH) and maintains involvement in a number of EH reference groups. Grant has been a Queensland Branch Councillor since 2002, and is current editor of the QEH journal. He joined the EHA Board of Directors in December 2009.



*(from Apr 2010)*

### Shannon McKiernan MEHA

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

Shannon is also a specialist reservist with the Royal Australian Air Force, specializing in the field of Environmental Health.

He has worked extensively in the fields of Environmental Health as well as social and environmental planning and impact assessment. 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 which involved 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.





# Branch/State Association Presidents

## Environmental Health Australia



*NSW/ACT  
President*

### Shannon McKiernan MEHA

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

Shannon is also a specialist reservist with the Royal Australian Air Force, specializing in the field of Environmental Health.

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Shannon has also lectured in the area of social planning for the School of Social Sciences at the University of Queensland.



*Queensland  
President  
(to Oct 2009)*

### Virgil Kelk FEHA

Virgil commenced work with the Queensland Department of Health as a cadet health inspector in January 1971. He has worked with Queensland Health since that time and holds the position of Director of Environmental Health 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, tobacco, communicable diseases and environmental toxicology. While based in Toowoomba, Virgil has responsibility for a mostly rural and remote region that is more than half the size of New South Wales or twice the size of Victoria.

Virgil has a significant interest in food safety, water quality and disaster management. He has been involved in the delivery of the EHA Disaster Management for Public Health Course since its inception in 1997 and was awarded an Excellence Award by EHA (Queensland Branch) for his work in disaster management in 2005. Virgil became a Fellow of EHA in 2002 and has been Branch President for almost four years.



*Queensland  
President  
(from Oct 2009)*

### Bruce Morton FEHA

Bruce is a Past National President and past Director of Environmental Health Australia. He was awarded a Bachelor of Applied Science in Environmental Health from Queensland University of Technology in 1992 and has completed post graduate qualifications in health promotion, health management and health science and was granted Fellow status of EHA in May 2008.

He has been a member of the enHealth Council, the peak national body for environmental health and various other national and state based committees or working groups on environmental health, food regulation and environmental health workforce.

Bruce was the Site Commander for H1N1 Pandemic (swine Flu) response for Brisbane South, West Moreton and Logan Public Health Unit areas. This role saw him coordinate QH's public health response that covered a large proportion of the Queensland population.

He is currently employed as Director Environmental Health, West Moreton and Logan Public Health Units, Queensland Health where he manages a team of environmental health officers.

# Branch/State Association Presidents

## Environmental Health Australia



*South Australia  
President  
(to Nov 2009)*

### Ian Hawkins MEHA

Ian is a qualified Environmental Health Officer with broad experience in Environmental Health within Local Government in South Australia and the United Kingdom. His substantive position is Manager Environmental Health and General Inspectorate at the City of Port Adelaide Enfield.

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.



*South Australia  
President  
(from Nov 2009)*

### Tony Pearson MEHA

Tony is a qualified Environmental Health Officer and has worked in a number of different states for local government in the past twenty years. His current position is Team leader of the Health and Ranger Services for the City of Onkaparinga.

In 2009 Tony took on the role of South Australian Branch President after being Vice President for a number of years. At this stage Tony is keen to ensure EHA (SA) INC remains viable through the period of the restructure of the national body. He also is determined to ensure that the board continues to provide relevant training opportunities to its members and remains financially viable in the future.



*Tasmania President*

### Mark Dwyer MEHA

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 is 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/State Association Presidents

## Environmental Health Australia



Victoria President  
(to Nov 2009)

### Dr Jim Smith LFEHA

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), the Board's Policy and Governance Adviser (2003-2006), and National President.



Victoria President  
(from Nov 2009)

### Jeremy Draper MEHA

Jeremy has been an Environmental Health Officer for 15 years. The longest period of time was spent with Mildura Rural City Council (nearly 10 years), this period included working across the border in NSW with the Shire of Wentworth. He has also spent time with some of Melbourne's Councils and 3 years in inner Adelaide. He has been involved with Environmental Health Australia since graduating from University and has served in numerous positions, including regional group secretary for the North West Victoria Group, Vice President and Convenor of the Food Special Interest Group in South Australia. In addition he is employed part-time with La Trobe University to undertake lecturing in Environmental Health.

Jeremy graduated from Swinburne University of Technology in 1995 with a Bachelor of Applied Science (Environmental Health). In addition he has since then completed formal qualifications in; Graduate Diploma of Education (Secondary), Graduate Certificate of Environmental Health Risk Assessment, Diploma of Quality Auditing, Diploma of Frontline Management and is also a registered High Risk Food Safety Auditor.



Western Australia/  
Northern Territory  
President

### Joseph Zappavigna MEHA

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 fourteenth 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. 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 Director on the Board of EHA and participated and contributed alongside the CEO and other Directors in the business and strategic plans of EHA. In November 2008 he stood down from the Board to take up Presidency of the WA/NT Branch and urges those Environmental Health Practitioners considering membership of EHA to act now and make their contribution to the worthwhile profession of environmental health.



# Management and Staff

## Environmental Health Australia



*Chief Executive  
Officer and  
Company Secretary  
(to Dec 2009)*

### Waikay Lau MEHA

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.

He is very much involved with his daughter's primary school and is the President of the P&C Committee. Waikay has a BSc Environmental Studies from Griffith University, an MBA in International Management and Cert IV Training and Assessment and enjoys his volunteer work with WWF and the Heart Foundation.

### Company Secretary

*Darren Ponton  
(from Dec 2009 to June 2010)  
Grant Steen (from June 2010)*

### National Finance Officer

*Bernadet Ferraro*

### Executive Officers

*Margaret Hind, New South  
Wales/Australian Capital  
Territory  
Jo Rolls, Queensland  
(to Mar 2010)  
Margaret Hind, Queensland  
(from Mar 2010)  
Mina Labaz, South Australia  
Bernadet Ferraro,  
Victoria and Tasmania  
Valarie Filevski, Western  
Australia/Northern Territory*



# Management and Staff

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## Environmental Health Australia

### *Environmental Health Journal*

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#### **Advisory Board**

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*Professor Nancy Cromar, Chair*

*Mr Waikay Lau, CEO, Environmental Health Australia (to Dec 2009)*

*Dr Jim Smith, Editor-in-Chief*

*Dr Thomas Tenkate, National President, Environmental Health Australia*

*Mr Joseph Zappavigna, Director, Environmental Health Australia*

#### **Editorial Team**

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*Editor-in-Chief, Dr Jim Smith*

*Editor, Adjunct Associate Professor Heather Gardner*

*Book Editor, Dr Thomas Tenkate*

*Production Editor, Wendy Ealey*

#### **Editorial Board**

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*Professor Nancy Cromar (Chair)*

*Professor Valerie A. Brown AO, University of Western Sydney and School of Resources, Environment and Society, Australian National University*

*Mr Waikay Lau, CEO, Environmental Health Australia (to Dec 2009)*

*Dr Ron Pickett, Curtin University*

*Dr Thomas Tenkate, Queensland University of Technology*

*Dr Dean Bertolatti, Curtin University of Technology*

*Dr Kirstin Ross, Flinders University*

*Dr Jim Smith, Editor-in-Chief*

# Registered Offices

## Environmental Health Australia as at June 2010

### National Office

Local Government House  
Level 1, 25 Evelyn Street  
Newstead QLD 4006  
Phone: 07 3000 2299  
Fax: 07 3252 9084

Postal Address  
PO Box 2222  
Fortitude Valley BC QLD 4006

Email: [national@eh.org.au](mailto:national@eh.org.au)  
Internet site: [www.eh.org.au](http://www.eh.org.au)

### State Association Offices

#### New South Wales

PO Box 2222  
Fortitude Valley BC QLD 4006  
Phone: 02 9181 3320  
Mobile: 0448 606 002  
Fax: 07 3252 9084  
Email: [nsw@eh.org.au](mailto:nsw@eh.org.au)

#### Queensland

PO Box 2222  
Fortitude Valley BC QLD 4006  
Phone: 07 3000 2299  
Mobile: 0448 606 001  
Fax: 07 3252 9084  
Email: [qld@eh.org.au](mailto:qld@eh.org.au)

### State Association Offices

#### South Australia

PO Box 168  
Unley SA 5061  
Phone: 08 8271 9885  
Mobile: 0448 606 005  
Fax: 08 8271 9885  
Email: [sa@eh.org.au](mailto:sa@eh.org.au)

#### Tasmania

GPO Box 2154  
Hobart TAS 7001  
Phone: 03 9438 5960  
Mobile: 0448 606 004  
Fax: 03 9438 5955  
Email: [tas@eh.org.au](mailto:tas@eh.org.au)

#### Victoria

PO Box 378  
Diamond Creek VIC 3089  
Phone: 03 9438 5960  
Mobile: 0448 606 004  
Fax: 03 9438 5955  
Email: [vic@eh.org.au](mailto:vic@eh.org.au)

#### Western Australia

PO Box 239  
Tuart Hill WA 6939  
Phone: 08 9440 6288  
Mobile: 0448 606 006  
Fax: 08 9440 6299  
Email: [wa@eh.org.au](mailto: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](http://www.eh.org.au)

# Corporate Reports

## *Environmental Health Journal*

The Journal *Environmental Health* reached its 9th volume in 2009 and over these nine years it has gained a reputation for publishing high quality material and for providing practitioners and researchers with an important vehicle through which to share innovations in policy and practice. However, due to the restructure and consolidation processes undertaken during 2009-2010, only two issues of *Environmental Health* were published in the second half of 2009, with no issues published in 2010. The issues that were published covered a broad range of current and emerging environmental health issues of importance to practitioners and researchers alike, with authors coming from Australia and overseas.

As the ongoing expense of publishing a journal such as this is significant, a process for investigating more sustainable publishing approaches is currently underway. In the past, funding from the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing has off-set the publication expenses, but the ongoing publication of the journal cannot rely on external funding of this nature. As such, we are investigating a variety of publication approaches that should make the journal more cost effective to produce while making it more widely available. As such, various on-line options are currently being canvassed. It is intended that the revised version of the journal will be available in 2011, however in the meantime current volumes/issues are available electronically for members through the EHA website.

Once again it must be acknowledged that the publication of *Environmental Health* would not be possible without the support provided by our peer reviewers. Their assistance and recommendations have been greatly appreciated. In addition, the contributions of the Advisory Board, Editorial Team (particularly Dr Jim Smith as Editor-in-Chief, and Assoc. Prof. Heather Gardner as Editor) and Editorial Board are very much appreciated and have been invaluable in ensuring the quality of the Journal.

Dr Thomas Tenkate FEHA

*On behalf of the Editorial Team*

# Corporate Reports

## EHA Environmental Health Course Accreditation Sub-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 courses which aim to provide training to practice as Environmental Health Officers. Applications for accreditation are assessed against EHA's *Environmental Health Course Accreditation Policy*. As such, the course accreditation process is a key function that EHA plays (as a professional association) to ensure that student practitioners receive appropriate standards of training to ensure their future practice as a professional.

Courses are accredited for a maximum time period of 5 years and on expiry of this, the Institutions are to apply for re-accreditation of the course. During their accreditation period, institutions are also required to contact EHA when they are planning substantial changes to a course. The course changes will then be assessed in-line with the Course Accreditation Policy. One outcome of the accreditation process for a new course is the awarding of conditional accreditation. Courses receiving conditional accreditation are required to address the issues raised by EHA during the accreditation process, and once these issues have been appropriately addressed, full accreditation is awarded.

During 2009-2010, no courses were accredited due to a flurry of activity in previous years. However, a number of courses are scheduled for accreditation or reaccreditation during 2010-2011.

As the Course Accreditation Policy was originally developed in 2004, upcoming work for the accreditation subcommittee (in partnership with enHealth and in consultation with the Environmental Health Educators Forum and key stakeholders) is a substantial review of the graduate attributes and abilities and the environmental health literacies to ensure that they are appropriately addressing current and future workforce and practice issues.

Through the Course Accreditation Subcommittee, EHA is considering the development of a process for accreditation/recognition of overseas qualifications for those individuals moving to Australia. This project will be informed by the review of the Course Accreditation Policy and will include substantial consultation with key stakeholders.

I would like to thank all those members who have contributed to the course accreditation processes over this year. In particular I would like to thank Dr Jim Smith (who stepped down as Chair of the Course Accreditation Sub-Committee at the end of 2009) for all of his work in developing and implementing a robust process and I would also like to thank Waikay Lau for the administrative support he has provided to the committee.

Dr Thomas Tenkate FEHA  
*National President*

# Corporate Reports

## International Federation of Environmental Health, IFEH Asia and Pacific Regional Group 2009-2010

Following on from the 10th IFEH World Congress in Brisbane in 2010, the 11th World Congress on Environmental Health was recently held in Vancouver, Canada. Nineteen (19) Australians attended this important event. EHA congratulates CIPHI for their very successful and well organized Congress where more than 450 delegates from all over the globe participated.

The theme of the Congress was 'Global Health Protection from Sea to Sky' and provided a broad platform to explore the universal challenges to environmental health in an era of increasing globalization. Keeping true to the motto of "Educate, Innovate, Advocate and Inspire", attendees were provided with up-to-date information on the latest innovations and strategies by world class speakers in health and environmental protection by focusing on core competencies in a number of thematic areas including:

- food safety
- promotion of active living & healthy communities
- sustainable communities & environments (air quality, water quality, and climate change)
- disaster preparedness and emergency response
- occupational health, risk and injury prevention
- environmental health management

A final outcome of the Congress was IFEH support for the United Nations resolution proclaiming safe drinking water a basic human right. All member countries agreed to progress this policy. Nine (9) high level staff from the National Centre for Health Inspection (NCHI) China attended the Canadian World Congress event and it is in the process of joining IFEH. NCHI employ 100,000 public health inspectors... this is a positive initiative providing opportunities for EHA and other IFEH members to conduct food safety training in China.

It was a productive year as Chair of the Asia Pacific Group IFEH and as a Board Director of IFEH. I attended the IFEH Council meeting in Singapore in mid 2009 as EHA's IFEH representative and gave a paper to the Centre for Urban Healthy Development in the Ministry of Environment with the President of IFEH aiming to engage Singapore agencies in improving healthy places.

During this period the Indonesian Environmental Health Specialists Association (IEHSA) was formed with support from the University of Indonesia. Two International Seminars were run in Surabaya and



*Mr Steve Cooper Treasurer IFEH, Mr Rob Bradbury President IFEH, Dr Peter Davey President Elect at the Canada EH World Congress 6-10 September 2010 in Vancouver.*

Bogor and I presented to both meetings on regional EH topics to support the legal formation of this Association. The issue of International Competencies was debated and Indonesian EH specialists are modifying curriculum in universities with IFEH to allow graduates to work abroad.

IEHSA has agreed to host the Annual IFEH Council and B.O.D meeting in Bali on 24-26 September 2011, where a conference will be conducted and at the same time World EH Day on 26 September will be celebrated. All EHA members will be invited.

Another positive IFEH initiative...the Africa Academy for Environmental Health launched a generic EH curriculum for Africa. The generic curriculum was launched at the 2nd All Africa Congress on Environmental Health that was held in Lilongwe Malawi during May 2010. As far as can be gathered this is a world milestone achievement as it is a first for a continent in the world to achieve such a generic curriculum.

Mr Robert Bradbury was installed as President of IFEH at the Canadian IFEH Council meeting and I was nominated by EHA and elected by IFEH Council Members as President Elect of IFEH 2010-2012. I take on the role of President of IFEH in Lithuania in May, 2012 for a 2 year period leading up to the IFEH World Congress in the City of Birmingham, UK in 2014.

Please start preparing to spend some time getting to know the EH systems across all Regions and particularly in both Europe and the UK, it's a great opportunity to become active on IFEH activities to improve the status of EH globally during the coming years.

*Dr Peter J Davey FEHA  
President Elect IFEH*

# Financial Statements

Environmental Health Australia Limited ABN 58 000 031 998

## DIRECTORS' REPORT

Your directors present their report together with the financial statements of the company for the financial year ended 30th June 2010.

### Principal Activities and Significant Changes in Nature of 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.

During the financial year the company was restructured as at 31st March 2010 whereby the branch offices now operate autonomously as incorporated associations. The role of the company has therefore changed to that of a National Office, operating within the guidelines of service agreements with the individual State entities. Consequently, assets and liabilities of the company have been rolled into the new entities. The levels of income and expenditure in this and future years will be impacted greatly by this decision which is expected to improve the company's overall profitability.

There were no other significant changes in the nature of the company's principal activities during the financial year.

### Operating Results and Review of Operations for the Year

	2010	2009
Operating revenue	\$699,494	\$1,218,250
Surplus/(Loss) for the year	\$57,329	(\$283,897)

### 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 2010.

### After Balance Day Events

No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year which significantly affect the operations of the company, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the company in future financial years other than those reported in this report.

### 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, other than the matters reported in After Balance Day Events.

### Directors

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

Thomas Tenkate – Director

Steve Davidson – Director, resigned 31/7/2009

Jim Smith – Director, resigned 31/8/2009

Fleur Cousins – Director, resigned 18/10/2009

Nancy Cromar – Director, resigned 19/10/2009

Kate Oliver – Director, resigned 14/12/2009

Joseph Zappavigna – Director, appointed 14/12/2009

Grant Steen – Director, appointed 23/12/2009; Company Secretary, appointed 9/6/2010

Ron Fry – Director, resigned 2/2/2010

Shannon McKiernan – Director, appointed 7/4/2010

Darren Ponton – Director, resigned 9/6/10; Company Secretary, appointed 20/11/2009, resigned 9/6/2010

Waikay Lau – Company Secretary, resigned 20/11/2009

Directors have been in office since the start of the 2009-2010 financial year unless otherwise stated.



# Financial Statements

Environmental Health Australia Limited ABN 58 000 031 998

## DIRECTORS' REPORT

### Meetings of Directors

During the financial year, fifteen (15) 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	4
Nancy Cromar	4	2
Steve Davidson	1	1
Ron Fry	12	11
Grant Steen	7	7
Jim Smith	2	2
Thomas Tenkate	15	15
Joe Zappavigna	8	7
Kate Oliver	8	7
Shannon McKiernan	1	1
Darren Ponton	15	14

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

### 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.

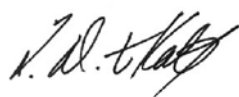
## DIRECTORS' BENEFIT

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 2010 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: Thomas Tenkate

Dated this 4th day of November 2010

# Financial Statements

Environmental Health Australia Limited ABN 58 000 031 998

## 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 2010 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 4th November 2010

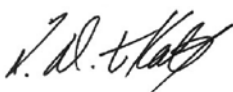
38 Ellingworth Parade, Box Hill, Victoria, 3128

## 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
  - (b) give a true and fair view of the financial position as at 30th June 2010 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 meet any obligations and liabilities as and when they become due and payable.

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



Director: Thomas Tenkate

Dated this 4th day of November 2010

# Financial Statements

Environmental Health Australia Limited ABN 58 000 031 998

## INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2010

	Note	2010 \$	2009 \$
Revenue	2	946,558	1,293,918
Staffing costs		(273,327)	(452,117)
Occupancy costs		(19,420)	(34,350)
Administrative costs		(273,983)	(490,174)
Conferences, seminars and workshop costs		(195,631)	(559,377)
Cost of goods sold	3(a)	(64,513)	(34,588)
Depreciation and amortisation		(2,355)	(7,209)
<b>Profit before income tax expense</b>		<b>117,329</b>	<b>(283,897)</b>
Income tax expense	4	-	-
		<b>117,329</b>	<b>(283,897)</b>
Seed Funding Paid to Associates		(60,000)	-
<b>Profit for the Year</b>		<b>\$57,329</b>	<b>\$(283,897)</b>

## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30TH JUNE 2010

	Note	2010 \$	2009 \$
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	6	182,746	347,644
Trade & other receivables	7	9,444	100,014
Inventories	8	23,471	24,250
Other current assets	9	-	10,059
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>215,661</b>	<b>481,967</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Financial assets	10	-	12,623
Property, plant and equipment	11	732	81,930
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>732</b>	<b>94,553</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>216,393</b>	<b>576,520</b>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Trade & other payables	12	11,896	130,813
Unearned revenue		-	180,480
Provision for redundancy		-	28,158
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>11,896</b>	<b>339,451</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Long-term provisions	13	-	53,327
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>53,327</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>11,896</b>	<b>392,778</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>\$204,497</b>	<b>\$183,742</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Asset revaluation reserves		-	40,000
Retained earnings	14	204,497	147,168
Financial asset revaluation reserve		-	(3,426)
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<b>\$204,497</b>	<b>\$183,742</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

# Financial Statements

Environmental Health Australia Limited ABN 58 000 031 998

## STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2010

	Retained Earnings	Asset Revaluation Reserve	Financial Asset Revaluation Reserve
Balance as at 1st July 2008	\$431,065	\$40,000	\$(1,832)
Profit attributable to members	(283,897)	-	-
Revaluation increment	-	-	(1,594)
<b>Balance at 30th June 2009</b>	<b>147,168</b>	<b>40,000</b>	<b>(3,426)</b>
Profit/(loss) attributable to members	57,329	-	-
Revaluation increment	-	(40,000)	3,426
<b>Balance at 30th June 2010</b>	<b>\$204,497</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

## CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2010

	Note	2010 \$	2009 \$
<b>CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Receipts from members and others		825,298	1,458,240
Interest received		4,494	20,078
Payments to suppliers and employees		(1,234,959)	(1,525,440)
<b>Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>(405,167)</b>	<b>(47,122)</b>
<b>CASH FLOW FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Purchase of property, plant & equipment		(2,067)	(3,225)
Sale of Property		242,336	-
<b>Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities</b>		<b>240,269</b>	<b>(3,225)</b>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held		(164,898)	(50,347)
Cash at beginning of year		347,644	397,991
<b>Cash at end of year</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>\$182,746</b>	<b>\$347,644</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

# Financial Statements

Environmental Health Australia Limited ABN 58 000 031 998

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

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

### 1. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### 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. 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 and 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.

#### (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 measured 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 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.

# Financial Statements

Environmental Health Australia Limited ABN 58 000 031 998

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

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 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 and Other 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 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 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 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.

### (h) Financial Instruments

#### *Recognition and Initial Measurement*

Financial instruments are initially measured at fair value plus transaction costs, except where the instrument is classified at fair value through profit or loss, in which case transaction costs are expensed to profit or loss immediately.

#### *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.



# Financial Statements

Environmental Health Australia Limited ABN 58 000 031 998

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

### *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) 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.

### **(j) Trade and Other Payables**

Trade and Other Payables represents the liability outstanding at the end of the reporting period for goods and services received by the company during the reporting period which remain unpaid. The balance is recognised as a current liability with the amount being normally paid within the trading terms.

### **(k) 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.

### **(l) Comparative Figures**

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

### **(m) Provisions**

Provisions are recognised when the company has a legal or constructive obligation, as a result of past events, for which it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will result and that outflow can be reliably measured.

### **(n) 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 and events specific to the company that may be indicative of impairment triggers. Recoverable amounts of relevant assets are reassessed using value-in-use calculations which incorporate various key assumptions.

### **(o) Adoption of New and Revised Accounting Standards**

During the current year, the company adopted all of the new and revised Australian Accounting Standards & Interpretations applicable to its operations which became mandatory. The adoption of these Standards has had minimal impact on these financial statements.

### **(p) New Accounting Standards for Application in Future Periods**

The AASB has issued new, revised and amended standards and interpretations that have mandatory application dates for future reporting periods. The company has decided against early adoption of these standards which are likely to have minimal impact on the company.

# Financial Statements

Environmental Health Australia Limited ABN 58 000 031 998

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

	2010 \$	2009 \$
<b>2. REVENUE AND OTHER INCOME</b>		
<i>Operating Activities:</i>		
Sales revenue	117,114	90,421
Annual subscriptions and fees	237,563	267,696
Grant income	-	166,248
Conferences and seminars	344,817	693,885
	<u>699,494</u>	<u>1,218,250</u>
<i>Non-Operating Activities:</i>		
Interest received	4,494	20,078
Distributions received	-	475
Rent Received	18,052	19,083
Other	17,182	36,032
Gain on Disposal of Property	207,336	-
	<u>247,064</u>	<u>75,668</u>
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b><u>\$946,558</u></b>	<b><u>\$1,293,918</u></b>
<b>3. PROFIT FOR THE YEAR</b>		
<i>(a) Expenses</i>		
Cost of Sales	64,513	34,588
<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	344,817	693,885
- expenditure	(195,631)	(559,377)
<b>Contribution to operating profit</b>	<b><u>\$149,186</u></b>	<b><u>\$134,508</u></b>

# Financial Statements

Environmental Health Australia Limited ABN 58 000 031 998

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

	2010 \$	2009 \$
<b>4. INCOME TAX EXPENSE</b>		
Prima facie tax on profit from ordinary activities before income tax at 30% (2009: 30%)	35,199	–
Add/(Subtract) tax effect of:		
– Member expenses not deductible	128,911	–
– Other non-deductible expenditure items	706	–
– Member income not assessable	(115,170)	–
– Other deductible expenditure items	(49,343)	–
– Prior year tax losses brought to account	(303)	–
<b>Income tax expense attributable to operating result</b>	<u>–</u>	<u>–</u>
<b>5. AUDITOR'S REMUNERATION</b>		
Remuneration of the auditor for:		
– Auditing or reviewing the financial report	10,400	9,038
– Acquittals and workers' compensation	680	1,625
– Preparation of annual financial report	2,000	2,000
– Taxation services	800	800
– Consulting	1,940	–
	<u>\$15,820</u>	<u>\$13,617</u>
<b>6. CASH &amp; CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>		
Cash at bank and in hand	9,640	172,182
Short term bank deposits	173,106	175,462
	<u>\$182,746</u>	<u>\$347,644</u>
<b>7. TRADE &amp; OTHER RECEIVABLES</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Trade receivables	13,303	103,873
Provision for impairment of receivables	(3,859)	(3,859)
	<u>\$9,444</u>	<u>\$100,014</u>
<b>8. INVENTORIES</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
At Cost		
Merchandise held for resale	<u>\$23,471</u>	<u>\$24,250</u>
<b>9. OTHER ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Conference prepayments	–	–
Prepayments	–	10,059
	<u>–</u>	<u>\$10,059</u>

# Financial Statements

Environmental Health Australia Limited ABN 58 000 031 998

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

	2010 \$	2009 \$
<b>10. FINANCIAL ASSETS</b>		
Unlisted investments at fair value	–	\$12,623
<b>11. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT</b>		
Office premises – at deemed cost	–	100,000
Less: Accumulated depreciation	–	(25,000)
	–	75,000
Plant & equipment – at cost	14,467	68,130
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(13,735)	(61,200)
	732	6,930
<b>Total property, plant and equipment</b>	<b>\$732</b>	<b>\$81,930</b>

### *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.

	2010 Office Premises	2010 Plant Equipment	2010 TOTAL
Balance at beginning of year	75,000	6,930	81,930
Additions	–	2,067	2,067
Disposals/write-offs	(75,000)	(5,910)	(80,910)
Depreciation expense	–	(2,355)	(2,355)
<b>Carrying amount at the end of the year</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>\$732</b>	<b>\$732</b>

# Financial Statements

Environmental Health Australia Limited ABN 58 000 031 998

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

	2010	2009
	\$	\$
<b>12. TRADE &amp; OTHER PAYABLES</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
<i>Unsecured Liabilities:</i>		
Trade payables	11,531	28,028
Sundry payables & accrued expenses	365	22,147
Employee benefits	-	80,638
	<u>\$11,896</u>	<u>\$130,813</u>
<b>13. PROVISIONS</b>		
	<b>Long-Term</b>	
	<b>Employee Benefits</b>	
Opening balance at 1st July 2009	53,327	41,209
Additional provisions raised during the year	-	12,118
Amounts used	(53,327)	-
Balance at 30th June 2010	<u>-</u>	<u>\$53,327</u>
Analysis of total provisions:		
Current	-	53,327
Non-current	-	-
<b>Total Provisions</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>\$53,327</u>
<b>14. RETAINED EARNINGS</b>		
Retained profit at the beginning of the year	147,168	431,065
Net profit/(deficit) attributable to members	57,329	(283,897)
<b>Retained profit at the end of the financial year</b>	<u><b>\$204,497</b></u>	<u><b>\$147,168</b></u>

## 15. 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.

## 16. SEGMENT REPORTING

The company operates predominately in one business where it promotes and encourages the interest and practice of environmental health.

# Financial Statements

Environmental Health Australia Limited ABN 58 000 031 998

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

	2010 \$	2009 \$
<b>17. KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL COMPENSATION</b>		
Total compensation to directors	<u>\$10,000</u>	<u>\$40,000</u>
<b>18. CASH FLOW INFORMATION</b>		
<i>Reconciliation of cash flow from operations with profit after income tax</i>		
Profit/(loss) after income tax	57,329	(283,897)
Non-cash flows in profit:		
- Depreciation/asset write-offs	2,355	7,209
- Assets gifted on restructure	5,910	-
- Diminution of investments	3,426	(1,594)
- Profit on sale of assets (net of revaluation)	(207,336)	-
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
- Trade & other receivables current	90,570	184,400
- Inventories	779	(3,672)
- Other current assets	7,227	55,138
- Trade & other receivables non-current	-	-
- Financial assets	12,623	1,119
- Payables	(118,917)	(5,020)
- Employee entitlements	(81,485)	40,276
- Unearned revenue	(180,480)	6,830
	<u><b>\$(405,167)</b></u>	<u><b>\$(47,122)</b></u>

# Financial Statements

Environmental Health Australia Limited ABN 58 000 031 998

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

	2010	2009
	\$	\$
<b>19. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS</b>		
<i>(a) Financial risk management</i>		
The company's financial assets consist of deposits with banks, short-term investments, accounts receivable and payable. The main risk the company is exposed to through its financial instruments is interest rate risk.		

### *(b) Interest rate risk*

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			
	2010	2009		
	%	%		
<i>Financial assets:</i>				
– Variable rate cash deposits	4.62	5.40	181,546	336,444
– Fixed rate deposits maturing within one year	n/a	5.40	–	10,000
– Trade & other receivables (non-interest bearing)	n/a	n/a	9,444	100,014
– Other financial assets – unit trust (non-interest bearing)	n/a	n/a	–	12,623
<i>Total financial assets:</i>			<u>\$190,990</u>	<u>\$459,081</u>
<i>Financial liabilities:</i>				
– Trade & other payables (non-interest bearing)	n/a	n/a	11,896	130,813
<i>Total financial liabilities</i>			<u>\$11,896</u>	<u>\$130,813</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.



# Financial Statements

Environmental Health Australia Limited ABN 58 000 031 998

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AUSTRALIA LIMITED

### 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 2010, 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.

#### *Auditor's 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*

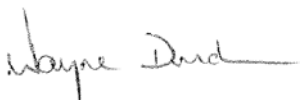
In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independence requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001*.

We confirm that the independence declaration required by the *Corporations Act 2001*, provided to the directors of Environmental Health Australia Limited on 4th November 2010 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 2010 and of its 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;
- (b) the financial report also complies with International Financial Reporting Standards as disclosed in Note 1.



Name of Firm: E. F. McPhail and Partners

Name of Partner: Wayne C. Durdin

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

Dated this 4th day of November 2010

# Awards and Membership Advancements

## Environmental Health Australia

### Queensland Branch Excellence Awards

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Environmental Health Professional of the Year

Sponsored by: Woolworths

*Virgil Kelk (Queensland Health)*

*Frank Henry (Brisbane City Council) – Highly Commended*

*David Bellman (Gold Coast City Council) – Highly Commended*

President's Award 2009

*Robert Lawson (Queensland Health)*

*Melissa McKeown (Townsville City Council) – Highly Commended*

Student Awards

EHA Prize – Griffith University

*Nicole Dodds*

EHA Prize – Queensland University of Technology

*Jacqueline Murray*

### Tasmanian Branch Awards

---

2008 Gold Medal Award for the Most Outstanding Student

*Simon McGee*

### South Australian Branch Awards

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Wallmans Lawyers Award for Outstanding Individual Participation to the Environmental Health Profession

*John Darzanos*

SA Health Award for Excellence in Community Focused Environmental Health Practice

*City of Salisbury*

Norman Waterhouse Lawyers Award for Excellence in Leadership

*Stephen Saffin*

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

*Catherine Cookson*

### Victorian Branch Awards

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TGO Jordan Memorial Award

*Daniel Wressell*

Keith W Magee Award

*Emily Taylor*

Leadership and Strategic Planning

*Leanne Johnson*

Professional Excellence Award

*Tammy Gelley/Houa Tia*

Professional Encouragement Award

*Kristy Taig*

Membership Advancement to Fellow

*Mark Hoyne*

*Callum Morrison*

### Western Australian/Northern Territory Branch Awards

---

Harold Salter Award for 2010

*Sandra Sewell*

*Sarah Althorpe*

Gold Medal Award for 2010

*Terrel MacGregor*

# Branch/State Association Reports

## New South Wales / Australian Capital Territory

The NSW/ACT Branch/State Association has had an exciting and successful year. This year brought new challenges to the role of an EHO as the Climate Change debate continued and food safety, public health 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.

The NSW/ACT Branch Council has a blend of experience and diversity which has seen it continue to achieve significant outcomes this financial year. In January/February 2010 Branch Council was involved in the transition of the NSW/ACT Branch to an Incorporated Association, Environmental Health Australia (New South Wales) Incorporated, in the move to a decentralized business model returning autonomy to the states while maintaining national and international representation and service delivery.

### NSW/ACT Branch Council/Board 2009-2010

Shannon McKiernan	– Branch President/President
Brian Jones	– Branch Councillor/Vice President
Ian Goldthorpe	– Branch Councillor/Treasurer
Paul Reynolds	– Branch Councillor/Secretary
Graham Burgess	– Branch Councillor (to Dec 2009)
Jeff Lee	– Branch Councillor/Director (to May 2010)
Greg Whiteley	– Director
Yvonne Menere	– Director
Mark Nolan	– Director
Rosemary Nicholson	– Director

The NSW/ACT Branch focused this year on delivering 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.

The State Conference, 'Environmental Health - Building Bridges Working together to achieve outcomes', held at Sydney Olympic Park in October showcased the diverse range of issues encountered by environmental health officers with expert presenters covering Climate Change, Environmental Management, Public Health, Disaster Management, Food Safety, Indigenous Health, Healthy Settings and Professional Development.

Training Programs delivered throughout the year included:

- The three (3) day Food Surveillance School supported by the NSW Food Authority
- A two (2) day Public Health School supported by NSW Health
- Series of two (2) day Noise Investigation courses in response to membership feedback

- Complaint Investigation and Professional Development workshops that focused on techniques for maintaining high levels of personal and professional productivity in the modern work environment.

Branch Council offered initiative scholarships for Student Members/ Trainees to attend each of the major training schools during the year. Student Member numbers have increased considerably following the Board decision to grant free annual membership to eligible Students and we encourage student member involvement in Branch activities.

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 is representation on the Food Regulation Forum Board, which oversees the development and implementation of the Food Regulation Partnership in conjunction with the NSW Food Authority. This partnership is shepherding 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. 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 worked closely with University of Western Sydney to ensure the ongoing relevance and viability of the tertiary degree for environmental health in NSW.

This Branch also actively advocated on behalf of members on a range of legislative reviews throughout the year including the Draft Public Health Bill and the accreditation of Building Surveyors within NSW.

EHA (NSW) INC incorporates our colleagues over the border. Environmental Health within the Australian Capital Territory is managed by the Health Protection Service with Vice President 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.

We say farewell and thank you to two former Branch Councillors and a number of members who have retired from the workforce after holding membership of EHA (formerly AIEH) for most, if not all, of their working lives and making an enormous contribution to their professional body and their profession. EHA (NSW) INC welcomes all members who have joined during the year and invites your participation in your organization.

**Shannon McKiernan MEHA**  
*New South Wales President*

# Branch/State Association Reports

## Queensland Branch

The Queensland Branch, and now Incorporated Association EHA (QLD) INC, has had a very successful year with membership, services, professional development and representation. Overall Association (Branch) membership has remained strong reflecting the current level of confidence in both the Queensland Association and the national organization. It is particularly encouraging to see students becoming members to enhance their interaction with the profession. Further, the changes to the EHA organizational structure has been well received by our members and the EHA (QLD) INC Board are working their way through how the Association should be operating to the State legislation.

### Branch Councillors/Directors during the year were:

Virgil Kelk	– Branch President (to Oct 2009)
Bruce Morton	– Branch Councillor/President (from Oct 2009)
David McNicoll	– Branch Vice President/Vice President
Grant Steen	– Branch Vice President/Director
Peter McKee	– Branch Councillor/Treasurer
Belinda Davies	– Branch Councillor/Secretary
Jim Edwards	– Branch Councillor (to Dec 2009)
Paul Endres	– Branch Councillor (to Feb 2009)
Sarah Shuttlewood	– Branch Councillor (to Dec 2009)
Sofie Sandberg	– Branch Councillor (to Dec 2009)
David Hancock	– Branch Councillor/Director
Amanda Hutchings	– Branch Councillor/Director
Vince Stephens	– Branch Councillor/Director
Thomas Tenkate	– Branch Councillor/Director
Chris Vakas	– Branch Councillor/Director

The Queensland Annual Conference, our 70th, was held on the Gold Coast in May 2010 and the program was well received by the delegates. The conference dinner theme was '70's', given it was our 70th conference, and was a highlight. I have never seen so many safari suits in my life and claimed 'not' to be owned by the wearer. The Association would like to acknowledge the Gold Coast City Council for hosting this event and valuable contribution to ensuring a first class professional development program. The 'Environmental Health Excellence Awards' were presented during the conference dinner.

In October last year, Virgil Kelk resigned from the position of President, EHA Qld Branch to spend more time with his family. Virgil was President for four years and on behalf of all members, I wish to thank Virgil for his level of enthusiasm and commitment towards EHA. Virgil still assists EHA in many ways and we appreciate his ongoing involvement.

The Association Board continues to meet regularly through a combination of teleconferences and a number of face to face meetings each year. Our Board Directors come from a variety of locations throughout Queensland and work for local governments, Queensland Health, a University, and private enterprise. The Association's Business Plan is being reviewed and updated and will set the path for the Association's work for the coming months. One of our recent challenges for our profession appears to be the decline in the number of

students graduating with EHO qualifications. However a number of our members and Association Directors have been working with local universities to provide EHO University courses and hopefully two new courses will come on-line in the coming year, with one of these providing external mode.

One of the main forums the Association contributes to is the EHO Subgroup of the Queensland Local Government Careers Taskforce. This Subgroup works with Local Government Association of Queensland, Qld Health, representative Local Governments from rural and metropolitan areas and university sector and is chaired by EHA. We have recently released the Cadetship Guideline and are planning a 2nd workforce survey and developing guidelines on Environmental Health resourcing for Local Government. This group is a great model of collaboration between Environmental Health related service providers and we look forward to advising more of the group's achievements.

### Conferences and Training

- Delivery of the popular Disaster Management for Public Health course 2009
- Delivery of the 70th Annual Branch Conference in May 2010
- Delivery of two Noise Management Workshops
- Delivery of the Inaugural Environmental Health Risk Management Workshop Jan 2010
- Delivery of the successful Contemporary Food Safety Training Course Feb 2010
- Planning for our Inaugural Enviro-School and Public Health Workshops.
- Development of a Training Catalogue for Members.

### Regional Group Reports

EHA members throughout Queensland actively participate in their local regional groups. These groups meet 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 convenors and secretaries for the valuable contribution they continue to make to EHA. A number of SEQ Regional Group members are planning a revitalization of the group and will be holding meetings soon.

**Bruce Morton FEHA**  
*Queensland President*

### Professional Development (Marketing & Communication) – QEH Special Interest Group

QEH is the newsletter of EHA (QLD) INC, published quarterly and distributed to members in electronic format.

The objectives of the QEH are:

- To advocate for the Environmental Health profession throughout Queensland

# Branch/State Association Reports

## Queensland Branch (continued)

- To increase the knowledge and skills of members in environmental health professional practice
- To provide a platform for EHA (QLD) INC Board to circulate advice to members on EHA policy and EHA Board initiatives
- To identify and communicate key issues to members on all matters relating to the profession
- To promote EHA (QLD) INC Board conferences, events and awards
- To raise members' awareness of EHA (QLD) INC Board and Regional Group activities
- To function as an information and promotion resource to members, providing a forum for exchange of information and member networking
- To provide an entry-level opportunity for members to submit relevant professional articles for publication
- To promote continuing professional development opportunities to members
- To maintain EHA professional standards and corporate branding requirements.

These objectives are achieved utilising a number of strategies. QEH sets out to inform the membership with topical information on policies, activities and initiatives of the National Board as required, the EHA (QLD) INC Board, the Board Executive as necessary, Queensland Regional Groups, and individual Queensland members and invited contributors, as appropriate.

Content of QEH is largely dependent on input from Members, with each of the Regional Groups taking notional responsibility for generating articles for one nominated edition annually. In addition, the final publication of the calendar year seeks to include appropriate pieces by EH students of Queensland tertiary institutions.

Standing articles for each edition are a President's message to Queensland members, editorial comment on environmental health in Queensland, member profiles, contact details, a calendar of events, and updates on Board activities through a column 'Behind The Scenes'.

QEH also attempts to keep members well briefed on specific areas of interest such as local government, food safety and environmental protection with regular contributions from LGAQ's Environmental Health Policy Advisor, as well as relevant state government agencies. It also provides widespread feedback on specific issues raised by individual members or regional group meetings, and web links to topical sites.

Editions this year have published content on the full range of environmental health topics, as well as some which may appear outside the realm of EH practitioners. Some of the applied subject material included environmental protection, waste (including e-waste), noise, pandemic planning and H1N1, prosecution cases studies, food safety, and bottled water. Professional and personal development issues such as workforce issues, training, overseas EH experiences, post-

amalgamation Local Government Environmental Health restructuring, new tertiary avenues, professional recognition, and EHA organisational restructure.

A draft Policy Statement and Action Plan for the Marketing & Communication QEH SIG have been submitted to the EHA (QLD) INC Board, for finalisation during 2010-2011.

**Grant Steen FEHA and Melissa McKeown MEHA**  
*Professional Development (Marketing & Communication) – QEH Special Interest Group Co-Convenors*

## Darling Downs/South West Regional Group

The Darling Downs/South West Regional Group has had another busy year and held two successful meetings this financial year. The meetings were held in Stanthorpe and Roma. At the start of the financial year, Todd Summerville was voted and welcomed into the role of Convenor for the group.

The first meeting of the financial year was in August 2009 in Stanthorpe, hosted by Southern Downs Regional Council. We had a very full agenda, with a diverse range of quality presentations from group members ranging from sustainability strategy, communicable disease, food safety, animal management and materials safety and also included a tour of the Stanthorpe Transfer station which was approaching completion.

A meeting of the group was held in November in Roma, hosted by Maranoa Regional Council. Members literally received a warm welcome to Roma with forty five degree heat. Once again, the agenda was very full and the meeting consisted of a range of presentations including updates from different state governments departments and from group members. The group enjoyed an annual networking dinner, generously sponsored by JJ Richards.

The proposed meeting in Toowoomba, which was to be held in March, was regrettably cancelled due to the extensive flooding in South West Queensland. Many of the group members were either tending to the environmental health aspects of the disaster or were unable to reach Toowoomba due to closed roads.

The Darling Downs/South West members thank all sponsors for their attendance and contribution to the success of our meetings, in particular to Southern Downs Regional Council, JJ Richards, Serve-Safe Food Hygiene Training P/L and Maranoa Regional Council.

Todd and I would like to give a special thanks to all members, sponsors and guests who attended, presented and helped to organise these meetings. We look forward to the meetings to be held in the coming year.

**Todd Summerville MEHA, Amanda Hutchings MEHA**  
*Darling Downs/South West Regional Group Convenor, Secretary/Treasurer*



# Branch/State Association Reports

## South Australia

Obviously the restructure of the national and state bodies in 2009-2010 has made it a challenging and interesting year. The state board has managed to negotiate a new service agreement with the national board that we trust will assist us to function in the best interest of our members. I commend the efforts of all Branch Councillors and the current Board Members:

Tony Pearson	– President
Susan Bennett	– Vice President
Karen Rokicinski	– Secretary
Nicole Moore	– Treasurer
Rebekah Schubert	– Board Member
Helen Psarras	– Board Member
Paul Kelly	– Board Member
Richard Bentham	– Board Member
Courtney Bartosak	– Board Member

A number of meetings were held with the SA Health Branch to discuss the implications and roll out of the new Public Health Bill expected in 2011. Discussions were around the content of the Bill and the changes that would be implemented on the back of recommendations from the consultation process and comments from the EHA working committee.

The new legislation will impact significantly on the traditional roles of the EHO in terms of determining what constitutes a public health risk and the methods required to abate that risk. To assist EHOs the department of health has established two working groups to develop a comprehensive implementation strategy around capacity building and policy development. EHA is represented on both working groups and will continue to work collaboratively with the department to ensure we can hit the ground running when the new legislation is introduced.

The Environmental Health Managers Forum has been well attended this year. Its purpose is to provide leadership and support for Environmental Health Managers and Supervisors representing Local Government. The group has provided representatives on the Food Act Working Group to assist with the review of risk classification and inspection frequency, defining consistency around food premises assessment and reviewing the food notification process and issues associated with audit and inspection fees.

We have received our funding from the Local Government Research and Development Fund for stage two of our Knowledge Base for Environmental Health Officers. Melinda Coleshill continues to be our project officer and will be looking to update the web site and add more content during the next twelve months so members are encouraged to contact Melinda with information or comments.

A number of EHA members participated on a national workshop facilitated by enHealth and the environmental health workforce working group. The meeting was held in

Adelaide to discuss course accreditation and alternative learning pathways to assist in maintaining a viable suitably qualified national environmental health workforce in the future. A number of issues were identified from these discussions but it was agreed that EHA should be supported by enHealth to review the current process of course accreditation to ensure consistency with the skills and knowledge matrix.

The South Australian Branch has representatives on the following:

- Public & Environmental Health Council
- DH Emergency Management Planning Committee
- Food Act MOU Work Plan – Working party
- Flinders University Professional Advisory Committee
- Flinders University post graduate degree accreditation panel
- Meat Hygiene Advisory Committee
- Dairy Authority Advisory Committee
- EPA/LGA sub-Committee
- enHealth Workforce Project

The South Australian Branch coordinated the following training during this reporting period:

### **Cool/Warm Water Training** – 11th September 2009

The training involved a quick review of the Legionella legislation, followed by a tour of a Warm Water System and a Cooling tower at a retirement village.

### **32nd Branch Conference** – Environmental Health an eye on the future 29th - 30th April 2010

**Environmental Health Swimming Pool and Spa Regulators Course** – 31st August 2010. The training was targeted towards equipping EHOs with better knowledge and tools to assist in administering swimming pool regulation.

## Conference report

The 32nd Annual EHA (SA) INC. State Conference was held on the 29 and 30 April 2010 at the beautiful Adelaide Pavilion. The conference was run over two days this year and all delegates appeared to enjoy the event with around 130 delegates attending. The theme of the conference, Environmental Health – an eye on the future, aimed to explore the emerging opportunities and challenges that face the environmental health profession. There was a wide variety of interesting and diverse speakers some as follows:

- Dr Kevin Buckett, gave an insight into the new Public Health Bill in South Australia, and some of the changes that may affect EHOs in the future.

# Branch/State Association Reports

## South Australia (continued)

- The Green Team showed us the amazing work that they have done reducing the lead levels of the Port Pirie community with the tenby10 project.
- Ingrid Makowski went through her moving presentation about the Victorian Bushfire disaster and how it affected her as an EHO.
- Dr Craig Williams entertained his audience with his presentation on Mosquito borne disease in the future.
- An update on Warm Water systems was given to us by Amelia Southam from SA Health.
- A presentation from the Eastern Health Authority and the Office of the Public Advocate about dealing with squalor, showed us all how to work collaboratively with other agencies to solve the more difficult issues.

Thanks again go to the organising committee, the speakers and the sponsors for making 32nd State Conference a success.

**Tony Pearson MEHA**  
*South Australian President*

## Food Safety Special Interest Group

This year the Food Safety Special Interest Group (SIG) meetings were well attended and supported by members. The membership group consists of city and regional Environmental Health Officers (EHOs) and State Government (SA Health) representatives. Susan Borne, from the City of West Torrens moved into the role of secretary and has made a big impact on the Food SIG dynamic. Her level of organisation and enthusiasm is a welcomed addition to the Food SIG team.

The meeting structure was changed this year in order to address the issue of reduced level of attendance to regenerating member interest. Feedback was sought from Food SIG members on changes that they perceived would help increase attendance and one key response was combined SIG meetings. As a result the Food SIG in conjunction with the Disease SIG ran two combined meetings which resulted in greater attendance, most notably by members from regional councils. Another initiative was the inclusion of a guest speaker from a variety of different food related backgrounds at each meeting.

## Food Safety Auditing

More than 60 EHOs have completed training and are now approved food safety auditors. The SIG continued to be used as a forum for discussing Auditing related issues and has now included this as a standing agenda item. Examples of topics discussed included:

- Clarification of requirements for dishwashing standards and calibration of units (domestic v. non domestic)
- Provision of a forum for the Department of Health SIG representative Karen Ferres to deliver important information relating to auditor training and professional development.
- Clarification on Supported Residential Facilities (SRF's) and whether FSS 3.2.1 is applicable.

As part of SA Health's commitment to provide auditors with ongoing training and development, the next Auditors' Forum was has been scheduled for 22 October 2010.

## Presentations/Guest Speakers

Presentations were given during this year's Food SIG's by:

1. Jenny Benton from Foodscope – Increasing the awareness of food allergies and promoting the accreditation system they have developed for food businesses that offer allergen free food.
2. PIRSA – Representatives from Primary Industries provided the group with a presentation covering the range and scope of their work. This included: Biosecurity SA using a graduated food safety approach incorporating industry standards, guidelines, protocols, industry consultation, audits, enforcement (including increased audit frequency, expiation, compliance orders, suspension and revocation).
3. AQIS – Presentations were given by Neil Ramsay, Jenny Pritcher (Imported Foods Program), John Oliver (Processed Foods & Fish) and Tony Wigg (Export Meat). Following the meeting the attendees were also afforded the opportunity of a 15 minute tour of the AQIS building. This meeting was by far the most successful for the year

## Working Groups

Following interest generated from Food SIG members, the sushi tasks was resurrected to enable members to discuss issues and share information about the sushi related food businesses within their respective council areas. The primary aim is to expand members' knowledge and promote consistency amongst EHOs when dealing with sushi businesses. The Food SIG also has representatives in the following working Groups who provide regular feedback to the SIG:

- Meat Food Safety advisory Committee (Susan Borne – City of West Torrens)
- LGA and SA Health MOU Work Plan Working Group (Dan Galbraith – City of Onkaparinga)
- Start Right Eat Right Reference Committee (Katie Koto – City of Charles Sturt)

## Contributions/Submissions

The SIG made a contribution to the following:



# Branch/State Association Reports

## South Australia (continued)

- Food Act Memorandum of Understanding Review
- Food Industry Bulletins prepared by SA Health
- Drinking Water Bill

### Combined SIG Meetings

This year two combined meetings were held to entice rural EHO attendance. The Food and Disease SIG meetings were held on the same day and at the same location to provide members with the opportunity to attend both SIGs. Members responded positively to this initiative.

### Other Issues

Topics that have been discussed at the SIG and will challenge the group next year include:

- Naming and Shaming, Scores on Doors
- Improving consistency when interpreting and enforcing legislation
- Food safety training for targeted businesses
- Ready to Eat Meat and Seafood Standards
- Food Safety Plans for the Catering Sector
- LGA / SA Health MOU

### Membership Contributions

The Food SIG is always looking for its members to actively participate in meetings and small party working groups. Many of the most popular Food SIG activities have been driven by such dedicated members. If you feel you have some time and interest in a Food Safety related forum please see the SIG conveners. The work you contribute to your SIG benefits all members.

The Food SIG thanks the Councils and other organisations that have hosted meetings throughout the past year, since without this support it is not possible to hold meetings in areas that are usually more remote.

### Elle Clarke MEHA and Craig Nicks MEHA

*Food Safety Special Interest Group Co-Convenors*

### Disease Control/Emergency Management Special Interest Group

This year the Disease Control/Emergency Management Special Interest Group (SIG) meetings have been well attended by members. The membership group consists of city and regional Environmental Health Officers (EHOs) and SA Health.

Adrian Hill moved from his role as Secretary to Co-Convenor due to the resignation of Susan Bennett. Susan's significant contribution to the SIG over a number of years is acknowledged and appreciated, we extend our thanks and best wishes. SIG members and Environmental Health Australia (EHA), from the South Australia Branch thank Dane Abbott for accepting the position of secretary.

The financial year 2009-2010 was another busy year with meetings held every two months. Two combined meetings (with the Food SIG) were scheduled with the aim to encourage rural EHO attendance. SIG meetings were held on the same day at the same location, providing members with the opportunity to attend SIGs that they might not normally attend. Members responded positively to this initiative with excellent attendances for both SIGs.

Guest speakers/presenters at the Disease Control/Emergency Management SIG for the past year have included:

- Joy Copland from the CDCB (SA Health) with an update on CDCB statistics for 2009 and predictions for 2010.
- Dane Abbott (City of Mitcham) with an update on the progress of the working party involved in the guidelines for the investigation of Legionella outbreaks.
- Sonia Sheppard (Housing SA) discussing the implementation of a Standard Operating Procedure for insanitary conditions and clandestine drug labs at their premises.
- Nicole Moore (City of Onkaparinga) discussing common issues with tattoo and beauty parlors and retail spas on display.
- Andrew Brown (SA Health) provided an overview of a new hoarding and squalor assessment tool.
- Isobel Ludford (SA Health) updated the group on the creation of the development of the guidelines for the investigation of Legionella outbreaks.
- Elly Nitschke (Office of the Public Advocate) discussed her role and a recent case in which they worked closely with the Eastern Health Authority.
- Catherine Jones (SA Health) discussing her role in relation to the detection of Clandestine Drug Labs.

During the 2009-2010 period the SIG made a contribution to the following:

- Provided a response from the Disease Control SIG on the role the Department of Health played in the recent H1N1 pandemic.
- Commented on the Public Health Bill on behalf of EHA South Australia Branch.
- Strengthening the relationship with EHOs and Housing SA.

# Branch/State Association Reports

## South Australia (continued)

- Strengthening relationships with EHOs and the various sections within SA Health.

A significant challenge for the group into 2009-2010 will be informing members of the development of the new Public Health Bill throughout its implementation. Another challenge is continuing to engage EHOs and encourage their participation and input into the Disease Control/Emergency Management SIG. One initiative towards achieving this is to attract informative guest speakers for each SIG and to also provide a forum for EHOs to discuss relevant issues that they face on a day to day basis.

Thank you to all the Councils that have hosted the Disease Control/Emergency Management SIG during the 2009- 2010 period, your assistance is greatly appreciated.

### **Jamie Tann MEHA and Adrian Hill MEHA**

*Disease Control/Emergency Management Special Interest Group  
Co-Convenor and Secretary*

## **Wastewater Special Interest Group**

The focus of the Wastewater Special Interest Group (SIG) for 2009-2010 has largely been around the soon to be released new Wastewater Management Systems Code and implications of the new Planning Residential Code on wastewater management systems.

The SIG provides a valuable forum for EHOs to discuss any problems that arise in their day-to-day wastewater management activities and is an excellent mode of communication between EHOs and the Department of Health. It is now a particularly valuable forum for metropolitan Councils also, as discussions often centre around new systems including greywater systems that are more commonly being installed due to recent drought conditions.

The SIG holds quarterly meetings and aims to periodically hold meetings in conjunction with tours of relevant organisations and presentations from relevant industry.

Next year, the Wastewater SIG hopes to host a guest presentation from the Office of Consumer and Business Affairs and take members on a tour of Veolia to help EHOs to better understand processes undertaken by licensed liquid waste contracting businesses.

### **Karen Rokicinski MEHA and Cassie Tuck MEHA**

*Wastewater Special Interest Group Convenor and Secretary*

# Branch/State Association Reports

## Tasmania

After a rather tumultuous year Tasmania has emerged as a State Association under the business name Environmental Health Australia (Tasmania) Incorporated. The current office bearers are as follows –

Mark Dwyer	– President
Ron Fry	– Vice President
Doug Doherty	– Secretary
Ellayne Wiles	– Treasurer
Carmel Miller	– Board Member
Alex Woodward	– Board Member
Jacob Farran	– Board Member

Special thanks go to Jeff Findlay for his invaluable assistance during the transition phase into the new business arrangement.

I am grateful too for the time and effort that Eric Johnson, James Doherty and Aby McGuire provided to the previous Branch Council. Your assistance is most appreciated and our ongoing success in providing good service to our profession in Tasmania would not have been possible without your contributions.

Over the past 12 months the following activities were undertaken for members and other environmental health practitioners in Tasmania –

- Quarterly seminars held in September & December 09, March & June 10;
- Newsletters issued in August 09, April, June & September 10;
- Attendance at the annual Polytechnic graduation ceremony to support graduating environmental health students;
- Award of \$250 EHA prize to the best student graduate for 2009;
- Organised and conducted the 35th annual National EHA Conference;
- Supported the University of Tasmania's 'taster' and career information days;
- Representation on the Statewide Immunisation Reference Group;
- Representation on the Tasmanian Food Safety Forum; and
- Conducted Branch Council/Board meetings including Organising Committee meetings.

### Conferences & Training

Another comprehensive program of environmental health seminars was conducted at The Grange function centre in Campbell Town. The range of topics, covered by various presenters, included a day long workshop on water quality incident tracking, communication protocols and relevant legislation, EHOs working in isolation, Food Safety Forum

MOU, Second Bite, pandemic swine flu update, waste water disposal systems case studies, Copenhagen climate change report, Red Cross in emergency management, OH&S workshop, sanitisers, private certifiers (waste water), disease prevention linkages with GP practices, enHealth update and post pandemic swine flu briefing from various perspectives.

The 'Emergency Management Training for Public Health Professionals' course run by the EHA (Victoria) Inc. SIG continues to be promoted throughout the state to ensure Tasmanian EHOs are made aware of the opportunity for specialised public health emergency management training.

### 35th EHA National Conference

Despite the effects of both the Global Financial Crisis and the pandemic swine flu at the time there was a remarkable attendance level at this conference. The Wrest Point Casino Boardwalk venue provided a stunning view of the Derwent River and nearby Mt Wellington for delegates to enjoy during their three days at the Conference.

In excess of 100 delegates from around Australia were in attendance to listen to various presenters on the Conference theme 'Environmental Health: Time to Deliver'. Keynote presenters included Emeritus Professor Ian Lowe AO, Dr Roscoe Taylor (Director of Public Health, Tasmania) and comedian Rod Quantock. Papers were presented on climate change, risk management, urbanisation, sustainable development and capacity building from a public and environmental health perspective. Environmental technical tours to a local vineyard (recycled water) and a zinc smelter (environmental management) complemented the Conference theme.

The Conference organising committee is to be commended on their efforts in enabling a most successful National Conference to take place at a time when there were considerable (global influenced) constraints on delegates being able to attend.

**Mark Dwyer MEHA**  
*Tasmanian President*

# Branch/State Association Reports

## Victoria

The last year has been an exceptionally busy one for Victorian Environmental Health Professionals and has thus compounded many of the difficulties that have challenged EHA during the restructure. Victorian EHPs work under 5 key pieces of legislation and every single one of those Acts or subordinate documents have been amended or replaced in the last year! Furthermore, many municipalities have been inundated with the extra recovery work from the black Saturday bushfires (and now floods also!). Due to the associated workloads from the changes it has made it quite difficult to engage meaningfully with the members and to find volunteers to organise on behalf of the membership. Despite this, Victorian membership is strong.

With the restructure of EHA and the difficulty finding organisers, much of the work has fallen to the Victorian Board Members and has thus been an exceptionally busy year. For this reason I would like to commend the Victorian Branch Councillors and Board Members who have gone above and beyond for the membership.

Jeremy Draper	– President
Ray Christie	– Vice President
Jim Smith	– Treasurer
Nick Lund	– Secretary
David Esmore	– Board Member
Jim Maw	– Board Member
Leanne Johnson	– Board Member
Peter Wright	– Board Member
Peter O'Brien	– Board Member

The re-structure has meant considerable changes at the Board level (re-writing policy, procedures, etc.) and for our members this has meant a very slow start to the year. One of the policy changes has been the introduction of Corporate membership. We have had quite a few organisations already take up the option and a large number express interest. We are about to do some wider advertising of the option and I hope we can report a big increase by next year's annual report.

Despite the slow start, EHA (VIC) INC has managed to organise and host a number of events and courses, including:

- 1st Professional Development Symposium (alternate for Victorian State Conference)
- Public Health and Wellbeing Act Forum
- National Emergency Management Course for Public Health Professionals
- Wastewater Treatment Plant Practical Tour
- Residential Tenancies Act Forum

EHA (VIC) INC has also taken on the Environmental Health Australia 36th National Conference which is to be held at Crown Promenade, Southbank, Melbourne on 17th – 19th November 2010. The program is very impressive and the venue superb.

EHA (VIC) INC has provided a number of formal responses to Government changes over this year. In particular the Caravan Park Working Group (part of the Public Health and Wellbeing SIG) provided very detailed feedback on the changes to the Caravan Park Regulations with much of the feedback ultimately included in the changes. The Environmental Management SIG has also provided numerous and detailed comments to the Environment Protection Authority over proposed changes to the Septic Tanks Code of Practice. Peter Wright (the SIG convener) has spent countless hours on the thankless task of compiling, writing and liaising to ensure all the comments have been submitted on time. Lastly, the Food SIG has been very busy throughout the year providing members for consultation and meetings. A difficult task with all the Food Act changes, Leanne Johnson (the SIG convener) has done an amazing job coordinating, liaising, meeting and keeping track of all that has been going on.

I would like to make special mention of the work done by Bernadet Ferraro as both Victorian Executive Officer and National Executive Officer. Of all the people in our organisation the changes have had the single largest effect on her workload and she has done a wonderful job ensuring we are up to date, informed and working. The re-structure and timelines have meant that she has often been required to work outside her normal hours and has generally gone above and beyond for the organisation.

With all the changes going on in Victoria, members require constant updates and professional development opportunities, meaning there are huge opportunities for EHA. We look forward to a very productive year.

**Jeremy Draper MEHA**  
*Victorian President*

## Emergency Management Special Interest Group

In the last financial year, the EMSIG focused on continuous improvement of ongoing projects, including the 'Emergency Management Training for Public Health Professionals', maintaining relationships with the emergency management sector by participation in interagency Emergency Management Committees and Swinburne University by presenting to undergraduate environmental health students.

## Sponsorship

The EMSIG would like to thank the Department of Human Services Emergency Management Branch and Kernow Environmental Services (Mr Terry Old) for their ongoing financial support of the course. This financial support has ensured that the course remains a viable training option for staff from smaller rural councils and interstate organisations.

# Branch/State Association Reports

## Victoria (continued)

### Interagency and Related Committees

The EMSIG maintained its relationship with the emergency management sector by continued representation on a number of interagency committees including the Red Cross State Catering Sub-Committee, DHS Pandemic Influenza Working Group, Municipal Emergency Management Enhancement Group (MEMEG) and the CFA and DSE Working Group on developing protocols for EHOs entering relevant agencies staging areas during an emergency. The EMSIG also drafted an Emergency Shelter Management section for the relief handbook on request from DHS Emergency Management Branch.

### Swinburne University Presentations

The EMSIG has continued to contribute to the emergency management training component for undergraduate environmental health students at Swinburne University of Technology at the request of Course Coordinator Louise Dunn. Presentations to first year students were conducted in May and provided an overview of public health emergency management and further presentations conducted in October to second year students covered the areas of prevention, preparedness, response and recovery as they relate to emergencies and were assessable components of the curriculum.

### Emergency Management SIG Members

The EMSIG welcomed two new members to the team, namely Oren Mizelowski from the City of Melbourne and Faye Paloukos from Moorabool Shire Council.

EMSIG member Kirsten Jenkins was involved in her first overseas Red Cross mission when she spent five weeks in Haiti to assist in earthquake relief. She also presented an overview of her experiences at the Emergency Management Training for Public Health Professionals.

The 'Emergency Public Health' booklet has continued to be in high demand with reprinting of additional copies for distribution.

#### Christelle Ray MEHA

*Emergency Management Special Interest Group Convenor*

### Public Health and Wellbeing Special Interest Group

The Public Health & Wellbeing Special Interest Group met twice during the 2010 financial year.

The SIG focused on a number of initiatives and public health issues, such as:

- The continuing development of the SIG's Action Plan and purpose statement

- The development of standard assessment tools and procedures
- Preparing position responses to the State Government's review of rooming house standards
- Responding to the impact statement on the new Public Health & Wellbeing Regulations
- Responding to changes to the Residential Tenancies (Caravan Park & Moveable Dwellings) Regulations

In late 2009 the SIG prepared on behalf of EHA a response to the Regulatory Impact Statement on the proposed Public Health & Wellbeing Regulations 2009.

In response to the State Government's formation of a taskforce to review Rooming House standards the SIG assisted the former EHA Victorian Branch Council in creating a Rooming House sub-committee to make appropriate review and response to the taskforce recommendations.

The SIG also assisted EHA in responding to the regulatory impact statement on the new Residential Tenancies (Caravan Park and Moveable Dwellings) Regulations by the formation of a Caravan Park sub-committee.

In May 2010 the SIG presented a Public Health & Wellbeing Forum at the Spingvale Town Hall. The purpose of the forum was to provide a re-cap of the new powers under the Public Health & Wellbeing Act and put these in to context with examples of some of the issues that Maddocks and M&K Lawyers have been addressing. Representatives from the Department of Health also provided an overview of the new powers of the Chief Health Officer and how these interact with Local Government.

#### Ray Christie MEHA

*Public Health and Wellbeing Special Interest Group Convenor*

### Environmental Management Special Interest Group

#### Wastewater Treatment Plant Tour

The inaugural tour hosted by Yarra Ranges Council was attended by 25 EHOs from around the state. The presentation by Matt Diston of Diston Sewerage Purification promoted the importance of calculating organic loading and selecting the right waste treatment systems for commercial applications like cafés, wineries etc that produce < 5000l / day.

Envirosep showed us the in's and out's of a domestic treatment system through a small scale working model. A representative from Triangle filtration explained the use of pressurised sub surface irrigation.

A sumptuous lunch and presentation was provided by



# Branch/State Association Reports

## Victoria (continued)

Septech ICON. Feedback so far has been positive. Comments include:

- “liked the working models”
- “content of the presentations was great”

Another Tour is planned for later in the year.

Thanks to sponsors and to those who attended.



### EPA Code of Practice – Domestic On-Site Wastewater

A number of draft versions of the Code have been reviewed with constructive comment provided by the SIG to the EPA. Comments have been well received.

A draft will be released to Councils and industry in October/November 2010.

### On-Site Domestic Wastewater Management Policy and Regulatory Review Project

Whilst little has happened with this project since mid 2008, The SIG has continued to seek a project update by writing to the EPA and DSE on a number of occasions. A letter from DSE this week indicates that a discussion paper will be released for stakeholder comment. No timeframe has been committed to due to upcoming State elections. We'll keep you posted.

### Noise Information Session

A survey to all members sent out in August has identified a need to run an information session on dealing with noise. Details will be provided shortly.

#### **Peter Wright MEHA**

*Environmental Management Special Interest Group  
Co-Convenor*

### North Eastern Regional Group

Throughout the 2009-2010 financial year the Hume Region division of Environmental Health Australia had the opportunity to address issues faced by the environmental Health professionals working in the field. During meetings held in Shepparton, Benalla, Murrindindi and Wangaratta

Environmental Health professionals were encouraged to share their experiences and innovations.

Some of the highlights of the year included:

- A tour of the Ecowise facility at Wangaratta which allowed us to see the processes involved in food and water sampling.
- Driving through the fire affected areas when attending the Murrindindi meeting and seeing how the community and environment are recovering.
- Working through the new Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 and getting our heads around the changes to the Food Act 1984. I'm sure this will be the topic of discussion at meetings in the future.
- Commenting and discussing the Caravan Parks and Moveable Dwellings regulations.
- Many discussions around the EPA's "Code of Practice – Onsite Wastewater Management" document, other EPA documents and environmental issues.

The past year has presented many challenges and changes, but the group is looking forward to working together to achieve inspiring outcomes. A big thank you to everyone in the region for contributing and look forward to another action packed year.

#### **Suzanne Walker MEHA**

*North Eastern Regional Group Secretary*

### Central Highlands Regional Group

The Central Highlands Regional Group comprises councils along and either side of the Western Highway transport route which carries most of the road transport between Melbourne and Adelaide. A number of our members also belong to the North Western Group and we generally have a combined meeting at least once a year which leads to lively discussion and exchange of ideas from the bulk of the EHOs working in the western half of the State.

This year we have met in Horsham, Daylesford, Ararat, and Ballarat with numbers varying from 15 to 30 plus.

Guests from the Department of Health have provided valuable information on a variety of subjects including Colonic Irrigation and the ongoing legislative changes.

We continue to enjoy a close relationship with the Department of Health and are very proud that one of our professional colleagues, Tom Neiderle, has been appointed as the Acting Regional director of the Health Department for the Grampians Region. This appointment is until February 2011 when there will be permanent appointments made. It would be a feather in Tom's cap and our profession if he is confirmed in the position next year. We are also appreciative

# Branch/State Association Reports

## Victoria (continued)

of Stephen and Steven and Christelle, before she went back to Ballarat, for their support throughout this year.

Environmental issues are becoming more relevant and to the front of our thinking. We visited a family making a conscious effort to minimise their carbon footprint in Ararat and it is obvious that it is not easy but certainly rewarding to go down this path. Unfortunately the distances most of us travel in our work makes carbon neutrality a bit of a dream for most of us.

Our members have at various times had to deal with emergencies on various scales such as drought, fires, floods, storms, and transport accidents and last summer a few Councils activated their Heatwave Plans. Day to day issues include spray drift, wind farms, grey water projects, asbestos removal, festivals and rooming houses.

### Alex Serrurier FEHA

*Central Highlands Regional Group Secretary*

The Gippsland Immunisation Reference Group (GIRG) continued with its regular meetings to discuss the current immunisation issues, trends in disease and vaccination, as well as the immunisation rates for the region as compared with Victoria as a whole. The group has been successful in developing materials used in the promotion of childhood immunisation, which are currently being distributed across the region.

With the passing of another year, relationships are built and projects are developed and completed. I commend all members for their continuing participation and contribution throughout the year. It has been a pleasure to be a part of such a dynamic and diverse group, and I look forward to being involved for years to come.

### Elizabeth Garlick

*Gippsland Regional Group Secretary*

## Gippsland Regional Group

Another year has come and gone in fine fashion. In comparison to last year, things were quieter on the regional front, although as this summary is being written quite a few regions are experiencing severe storms and flooding. There is never a dull moment in the Gippsland region.

Our quarterly meetings were held in Traralgon and were well attended. There have been a number of people come to our region from other areas and a few have gone on to bigger and better things, however our membership has remained strong. The Gippsland region has representation on a number of committees and SIGs by its members, who keep everyone up to date with changes and new information. The changes to the Food Act have brought many discussions in this regard.

Three of our members undertook the Emergency Management Course for Public Health Professionals at Mount Macedon in July, which they found to be very beneficial.

In the past 12 months Gippsland has seen the rebirth of the Regional Sampling Group, which focuses on the sampling of key foods and trends in foods. The focus of the first round of sampling was foods that contained raw egg products. This produced a wealth of information which has assisted the lead in to the next round of sampling.

Members were treated to a presentation from Steamatic, which covered a great deal of information in relation to the cleaning and sanitising of areas contaminated by the operation of clandestine laboratories (Clan Labs). Steamatic brought along a number of pieces of equipment that are used in the cleanup process and thoroughly explained their use and mechanisms of operation. This information was later put to good use with the identification of some clan labs operating in the area.



# Branch/State Association Reports

## Western Australia/Northern Territory

The last financial year 2009-2010, saw a year of change and transition. For the most part this professional body was known as EHA WA/NT Branch, becoming Environmental Health Australia (Western Australia) Incorporated in the later part of the financial year. In both forms of the Association there was a satisfactory level of participation by the Elected Members and its membership in a range of business areas.

I take this opportunity to thank the elected members (current, past and present) for their efforts at this transitional time and for their support and actions at various levels within the Branch over the past year.

It is with mixed feelings I report that in June 2010 Valarie Filevski, Executive Officer, resigned her position with EHA after two full years of service for both EHA WA/NT Branch and EHA (WA) INC, to move to self-employment. We will miss her and the service she provided in the important role of Executive Officer with a strong approach to member services. I look forward to working with a new Executive Officer.

EHA WA/NT Branch Council meets monthly via teleconference to accommodate the wide distribution of the members of the Association from WA (and formerly of NT). The recently Incorporated Association was formed at the last General Meeting held in the morning of day two at the 64th Branch Conference in early May 2010. We again saw an experienced and long serving member, Ross Wells, depart due to retirement, and we congratulate him on his long service to the Branch, the Association and the Environmental Health profession and wish him well for the future.

The number of Association elected members is somewhat reduced, however EHA (WA) INC maintains a good mix of competent individuals and warmly welcomes the new elected members. The Branch Council operated for the period (May 2009-May 2010) between General Meetings with the following people:

Joseph Zappavigna	– Branch President and National Director (City of Fremantle)
Darren Ponton	– Vice President and Treasurer (private industry)
Justin Strange	– Vice President and Branch Councillor (Shire of Mundaring)
Toni Hannelly	– Branch Councillor (Curtin University)
Colin Dent	– Branch Councillor (Shire of Capel)
Sarah Curnow	– Branch Councillor (Pilbara Public Health Unit)
Ross Wells	– Branch Councillor (City of Gosnells) – retired Jun 2010
Kirstin Ross	– Branch Councillor (NT Batchelor University) – resigned Jun 2010
Kelly Fewster	– Branch Councillor (Shire of East Kimberley) – resigned Feb 2010

The change in terminology from 'Branch Councillor' to 'Director' is a result of incorporation as an Association in Western Australia. The roles and responsibilities are similar with new elected members being Directors of the Incorporated Association under the legislation.

### Activities

EHA WA/NT Branch participated in the Australian Council on Smoking and Health (ACOSH) Council meetings in 2009-2010 where smoking prevention strategies are discussed. This has been a useful alliance between ACOSH and EHA that is set to continue.

EHA WA/NT Branch participated in a number of Metropolitan Food Monitoring Group meetings during 2009-2010 and Branch Councillors attended as many Regional Group meetings as possible or presented reports of EHA activity to those meetings.

The Branch held a number of activities throughout the year. In mid September 2009 the Wastewater Management Workshop was presented at the Shire of Mundaring Council buildings with the assistance of Neil McGuinness of ENV. A variety of EHPs attended and gained up to date information on waste water management.

In early December 2009 the Mental Health First Aid seminar was presented at the Blind Institute conference rooms in Victoria Park. A diverse group of people from Local Government were in attendance to reflect on this important area of public and personal health.

In early March 2010 the Asbestos Management Forum was presented at the Western Australia State Library in Northbridge. This was in response to the impending change to laws relating to working with materials containing asbestos. The interest in the topic by members was very high and was reflected in the large attendance.

EHA (WA) INC held its 64th Branch Conference titled 'Environmental Health Practitioner – Scientist or Inspector?'. The annual event is the highlight of the EH calendar and was run over two days at The Vines. The event was well received and it was pleasing to see so many people from the Western Australia regions in attendance, and at least one delegate from Queensland.

### Presentation of Awards

As tradition dictates the following awards were presented at the State Conference to people, who in 2009, achieved or attained the highest achievement in the field of Environmental Health.

The Gold Medal Award was presented to Terrel MacGregor, now working at City of Stirling. Terrel was the student graduating from the degree of Bachelor of Science (Environmental Health) who displayed the highest level of academic achievement throughout their course of study at Curtin University of Technology.

# Branch/State Association Reports

## Western Australia/Northern Territory (continued)

The Harold Salter Award was presented to Sandra Sewell and Sarah Althorpe, student members of Environmental Health Australia (Western Australia) Incorporated awarded the degree of Bachelor of Science (Environmental Health) and who displayed the highest level of professional potential throughout the course of study at Curtin University of Technology. Sandra Sewell performed her professional practice at the City of Bayswater and Sarah Althorpe performed her professional practice at Shire of Kalamunda and Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley.

### Organisation

As a result of the move to the new business model for EHA nationally, since February 2010 Environmental Health Australia (Western Australia) Incorporated is the new Association name for members and customers to use. I am pleased to advise that Incorporation was a smooth transition.

EHA (WA) Incorporated is a shareholder of the national company Environmental Health Australia. Members of EHA (WA) Incorporated can nominate to become a Director of EHA the national body, under the Rules of Association.

This change of the association name reflects the loss of Northern Territory as an entity within EHA and was purely a result of maintaining compliance with WA Association law. In the Northern Territory there were fewer people interested in taking up the challenge of running a related EH Association and as a result of the different government structures that opportunity didn't lend itself to this transition. This is a gap that should not go unmet and I encourage EHPs in the Northern Territory to find a way through this or reconsider taking the opportunity to establish an EHA (NT) Incorporated Association for the group of EHPs who would benefit from professional membership.

Thanks again to all those who have assisted EHA WA/NT Branch and now EHA (WA) Incorporated to remain relevant and the premier Environmental Health organisation relevant to EHPs and I look forward to your continued support and membership in future years

### **Joseph Zappavigna MEHA**

*Western Australian President*

# Other Activities

## Australian Food Safety Assessment (AFSA)

AFSA and complementary Food Safety Standard of Practice were launched in September 2003. Developed by the SA Food Management Working Group, these tools promote accountability and consistency in the monitoring of food safety standards by Environmental Health Practitioners and are designed for use Australia wide. This product has been returned to the South Australian suite of professional tools (which also includes Swimming Pool, Hairdressing, Skin Penetration and Cooling Tower inspections pads).

Should you wish to investigate the possibility of using this professional tool please go to our website [www.eh.org.au](http://www.eh.org.au) and click on professional tools then AFSA or alternatively the direct link is <http://afsa.eh.org.au/>. There you will find all the information required by clicking on the standard of practice and downloading it, an example of the inspection sheets is also shown on page 7 of the document. AFSA is available as a Generic Pad, Designer Pad (with your organisational logo) or in an electronic format.

AFSA is well established as an EHA professional practice resource and National sales have increased during 2009-2010. There is scope for further growth and, in keeping with the goal of accountability and consistency of practice amongst the profession; non-users are encouraged to consider the benefits that AFSA can bring to their workplace. I welcome your queries about any of our professional tools, phone (08) 8271 9885, email [mina.labaz@eh.org.au](mailto:mina.labaz@eh.org.au).

### **Mina Labaz**

*Executive/Public Officer – EHA (SA) Inc*

# Other Activities

## FoodSafe<sup>®</sup>, FoodSafe<sup>®</sup> Plus, FoodSafe<sup>®</sup> Online

In 2006 the AIEH marked 10 years, 10 thousand sales, and over \$1 million in revenue for FoodSafe<sup>®</sup>!

FoodSafe<sup>®</sup> was developed by EHA (formerly AIEH) in 1996 and underwent a revision in 2003 to align with the national Food Safety Standards. FoodSafe<sup>®</sup> PLUS is the 'second step' for food businesses already holding FoodSafe<sup>®</sup> certification and who now want to develop their own food safety program to manage their food safety risks.

FoodSafe<sup>®</sup> PLUS applies the principles of hazard analysis critical control point (HACCP) to guide the food business through the FoodSafe<sup>®</sup> PLUS Manual to develop their own Quality Policy Statement. Both FoodSafe<sup>®</sup> and FoodSafe<sup>®</sup> 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<sup>®</sup> 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 will recognise this achievement by awarding the FoodSafe<sup>®</sup> Certificate and window sticker.

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

In 2008, the EHA Board accepted a report from the CEO and FoodSafe<sup>®</sup> Committee to develop an on-line learning version of the FoodSafe<sup>®</sup> program. Larger industries, such as facility management companies and child-care chains, now demand this on-line format for their geographically dispersed food handling staff. The on-line learning website is operational and active.

Overall performance of FoodSafe<sup>®</sup> in 2009-2010 indicates that the change in food laws around Australia to demonstrate skills and knowledge has meant that FoodSafe<sup>®</sup> products have received renewed interest and sales are picking up to reflect this awareness of the changing face of the food industry. I am happy to report that FoodSafe<sup>®</sup> products performed satisfactorily from a range of sales in the last year.

The FoodSafe<sup>®</sup> Committee advocates the 'FoodSafe<sup>®</sup> Aware' program which is designed to acknowledge businesses that support the food industry and train staff in food safety to the level required in FoodSafe<sup>®</sup>. So far requests have come from commercial cleaning and pest control companies servicing the food industry, showing that recognition and knowledge of the FoodSafe<sup>®</sup> logo is widespread in the industry. The release of 'FoodSafe<sup>®</sup> Aware' is awaiting development of a licensing arrangement for corporate customers, related to the on-line learning system.

**Darren Ponton MEHA**

*Chair, FoodSafe<sup>®</sup> Committee*

# Other Activities

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## I'M ALERT Online

In response to increasing demand for online educational tools the I'M ALERT Food Safety Training Program has been developed as a web based program. An annual subscription to I'M ALERT Food Safety Online will have the program linked to the subscribing Council/Organisation website. The training pages are co-badged with EHA and Local Government/Organisation logos, as are all print-outs from within the program (e.g. temperature recording sheets, cleaning schedules, certificate of training etc).

New subscribers are provided with co-badged marketing materials including flyer and print media template to assist environmental health professionals with marketing the program to their food businesses. Food handlers visit their Council website and follow the links to conduct the food safety training free of charge, as many times as they wish.

Environmental Health Australia 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.

2009-2010 saw many new local governments and training organisations subscribe to the I'M ALERT Food Safety online training program and more than 55,000 people have completed the training as at 30 June 2010.

**Margaret Hind**  
*Executive Officer*





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