



National President's Report

I take this opportunity to welcome members around Australia to the September 2012 newsletter. I have great pleasure in advising you that EHA is working hard as a well-constructed team of National Directors and State Presidents from around Australia to ensure that we are achieving our strategic plan.

The financial position of the national company and the State Associations are stable and showing signs of growth. This is as a result of the persistent work and activities of the State Associations engaging with their members. The services that EHA agreed to provide on behalf of the State Associations have been underway since 2010 when the service agreement was signed and we are again in a position to regularly review it as promised.

EHA welcomes Mrs Victoria Mohkami as its new National Executive Officer to manage our day-to-day business and long term strategic activities with the assistance and direction of the National Directors. Victoria is based in the Brisbane office for 20 hours a week and will principally be in regular contact with the National Directors, the State Association Presidents and their Executive Officers. This is how we envisaged our organisational structure to be working from now on.

Continued p.2

this issue

National President's report	p.1
National Executive Officer	p.2
National Treasurer's report	p.3
EHA Website	p.3
Advocacy	p.3
Strategic Direction to drive member services	p.4
Refocusing EHA	p.5
University Accreditation	p.6
EHA/enHealth Uni. Course Accreditation Process	p.7
NBN Submission	p.7
National Conference	p.8
WA update	p.9
SA update	p.10
Qld update	p.11
NSW update	p.12
Tasmania update	p.14
Victoria update	p.14
A bit of fun	p.15

National President's Report cont.

On 26 September we will celebrate 'World Environmental Health (WEH) Day'. WEH Day is an important international day inaugurated in Bali in 2011. This special event is to be held on 26 September every year across the planet in perpetuity. As we approach WEH Day 2012, I ask members to visit the International Federation of Environmental Health website (www.ifeh.org) to view the declaration and to listen to the song written and performed by the Indonesian EH Students. These students formed their professional student association in Bali in September 2011 where the WEH Day declaration was made. It is quite inspiring and the challenge is on for our talented Australian EH students to come up with either a song or a message that they think will suit such a special day. The EHA National Directors plan to have a themed announcement that will reflect the importance of this event. I encourage you to keep in touch with our NEO, Victoria Mokhami, with your ideas so we can put this day firmly on the calendar every year from now on.

A further recent international action out of the international conference in Vilnius, Lithuania, in May 2012 was for each national organisation, EHA in our case, to get involved to whatever degree possible for contributing to the WHO 2008 Commission report "Achieving Health Equality Through Action on Social Determinants of Health". The paper summarises the particular health inequalities and sets out three principled actions for improvement which will hopefully remove inequalities within one generation across the planet. IFEH collated all member associations (i.e. EHA) feedback on the report. EHA noted the following areas for improvement.

- Obesity should be included in the areas of concern;
- There is no mention of economic health and its relationship to public health; and
- There is no reference to the availability of water and food.

Back on the home front, EHA has been invited to attend meetings of the Commonwealth Industry Reference Group (IRG) for the Community Sector Development Streamline and Review with particular reference to Indigenous Environmental Health Workers. EHA hopes to influence this review where it suits the needs of IEHW practitioners.

Finally, as members of EHA, I ask that you keep in touch with your State Association and your National Directors at every opportunity as many of you have been doing. This will assist EHA to better provide for members' needs and enable EHA to continue to meet members' needs.

See you all at the 37th National Conference 'Advancing Quality of Life' at the Hilton Surfers Paradise, Queensland from 11-14 November 2012!

Joseph Zappavigna

National President



Victoria Mohkami **National Executive Officer**

Victoria Mohkami (pictured above) is the new National Executive Officer (NEO) of EHA. She has recently immigrated to Australia with her family to live here permanently.

She was educated in the United States and Europe. Victoria holds an Executive Master in Management from the Solvay Business School as well as a Bachelor of Arts degree in French Literature from University of California, Berkeley.

She started her career in Banking and then moved on to work for different roles in Administration, Finance and Accounting.

Victoria has experience working with non-profit organisations. Prior to joining EHA, Victoria worked for Transparency International, the global coalition against corruption, where she handled the Finance and Human Resources of the EU Liaison office. She has also worked for the Motion Picture Association, a non-profit trade association representing the six big Hollywood Studios and advocate of the American motion picture, home video and television industries.

Welcome Victoria!

National Treasurer's Report

I am very pleased to report that the National organisation Environmental Health Australia Ltd, has finished the year with a reasonable surplus. Although the surplus is lower than the previous year, there have been quite a number of projects commenced, whereas in the prior year no monies were spent on the projects due to the internal constraints applied during the transition period.

The National Board of Directors has been strengthened and we have met as a full group for the first time in several years. This is important as under the new structure the need for consensus is able to be more easily met, and the spending on projects more appropriately apportioned. That is to say, we don't need to accumulate as much money, to get well considered projects rolled out in a timely manner.

We have now appointed a new National Executive Officer (Victoria Mohkami) who has commenced working for the organisation based out of the offices in Queensland. We all welcome Victoria into the organisation where her accountancy skills and training will be well received. We have updated the computer systems and work on software compliance is a continuing task.

There are a number of other projects which will require funding during the coming year. This includes the new website project, CPE/CPD for EHOs, the Universities accreditation project (on-going with Commonwealth Funding – thanks to Bruce Morton for leading this project), and others.

As part of the preparation for a properly constructed budget for the coming year (including a three year fiscal plan), we are also re-considering the so called "affiliation agreement" which had been put together some four years ago and was administered out of the former State branch in Melbourne. On initial analysis the requirements seem somewhat draconian so a number of new models are being considered and tested, including an excellent proposition from South Australian members (thanks to Susan, Mina and Angela).

We are now on track for an excellent 2013. As soon as audited figures are available we will put them up (in draft form) onto the website. We are looking forward to our annual general meeting at the National Conference in November on the Gold Coast. We hope to see as many members as possible at the conference (this will help the finances as well for both National and Queensland). Please do not hesitate to ask any questions on our new structure or finances and we will do our best to answer in a timely and accurate way.

Greg S Whiteley

National Treasurer



EHA Website

EHA will launch a new website at the National conference in November. The new website will offer additional services and functionality based on member feedback. Stay tuned for more information!



Advocacy: Representing EHA members' interests

EHA national and the State Associations regularly advocate on behalf of EHA members. Some of the recent national work includes:

- A submission regarding the [National Preventative Health Research Strategy \(2012-2016\)](#).
- Nominating an EHA national Director to be on the FSANZ Board so that we have ongoing representation at this important forum.
- Feedback in a variety of IFEH consultation processes.

STRATEGIC PLANNING



Strategic Direction to Drive Member Services

With the organisational changes for Environmental Health Australia (EHA) finalised, the Board has taken the opportunity, to refocus efforts on member services and the restructuring of national activities to provide the most efficient support to member Associations in the States. A priority task has been Board input and agreement to the strategic directions for the EHA National organisation to achieve the best outcomes for the Associations and for Environmental Health. The national Board has sought feedback on the draft strategic plan from the State Associations. The plan sets the Vision, Mission, Corporate Goals and Key Result Areas for the national organisation and establishes values for the Environmental Health Profession. The values of professionalism, integrity and ethics, transparency, accountability, responsiveness, and sustainability and stewardship will be enunciated in the organization's code of conduct which member associations are expected to adhere to.

Individual values will be the subject of focus for coming newsletters and we'll be seeking input from Members that can demonstrate "living the values" within the Environmental Health Profession.

The core components of the strategic plan include the following.

Vision

Environmental Health Australia aspires to enhance the practice of Environmental Health to provide a healthy, safe and attractive natural, built and social environment for all of the communities of Australia.

Mission Statement

Environmental Health Australia is the premier environmental health professional organisation in Australia. Environmental Health Australia will continue to develop and maintain a quality environmental health workforce and advocate for enhanced environmental health standards for, and on behalf, of all the communities of Australia.

The EHA National organisation will continue its work to achieve its mission focusing on three (3) broad strategies or key result areas:

- *Organisational - the continued improvement of organisational capacity focused on improving sustainability and resources.*
- *Professional practice - the enhancement of professional environmental health practice through development of standards of practice, professional development and certification/accreditation schemes.*
- *Environmental health advocacy - the enhancement of environmental health advocacy through the development of environmental health policy positions, policy networks and relationships, and advocacy mechanisms.*

The Board of EHA Ltd is interested in your input and encourages members to provide their comments via their State Association or directly to the National Office. The draft plan will be available shortly at via www.eh.org.au or contact your Branch Executive Officer.

Refocusing Environmental Health Australia

The Environmental Health Australia (EHA) Board of Directors met in Adelaide in mid-June. With the State Presidents from South Australia (Susan Bennett) and Queensland (Belinda Davies) and Executive Officers Mina Labaz (SA), Margaret Hind (Qld, NSW, Tas) and Julianne Samandari (WA - via teleconference) the Directors worked over two (2) days to reset the national agenda. The aim of the meeting was to establish the organisational and strategic directions for the national body, to represent the interests of all State Associations and the environmental health profession across Australia.

The key outcomes from the meeting have been:

- The re-drafting of the organisational strategic plan for the period 2012-15 to reinvigorate the organization and adjust to the federated structure;
- The review of submissions from organisations to reinvigorate the EHA website to improve member services;
- The finalisation of the environmental health university course accreditation review, including a proposal to conduct two (2) workshops in Brisbane and Adelaide to gain cross stakeholder engagement, and a University focus group with selected universities to test and provide feedback;
- Finalisation of the appointment of a National Executive Officer to assist in the day-to-day operations of the national body and the implementation of the national projects and programmes;
- The revision of national financial arrangements including the ongoing review and implementation of the service agreement with the State Associations to ensure that State contributions to the National body are equitable and manageable whilst retaining the viability of a national focus;
- The establishment of protocols on a variety of issues for the continued operation of a truly national representative body for the environmental health profession with invigorated and autonomous State Associations;
- The review and re-establishment of former national programmes including the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and Certified Environmental Health Practitioner (CEHP) Schemes and the peer review journal;
- Update and final arrangements for the 37th National Conference and workshop programme being conducted by EHA Queensland and Gold Coast City Council to be held at the Hilton Surfers Paradise 11th – 16th November 2012; and
- The appointment of Susan Bennett and Angela Sorger to the Board as representatives from the South Australian Association. The Board now has representation from every State with the exception of Victoria.



EHA National Board and State representatives

(L-R): Greg Whiteley (NSW) - National Treasurer & Director; Joseph Zappavigna (WA) - National President & Director; Philip Swain (WA) - Director; Bruce Morton (Qld) - Director; Angela Sorger (SA) Director; Belinda Davies (Qld) - Association President; Mina (SA) - Executive Officer; Susan Bennett (SA) - Director & Association President; Vince Stephens (Qld) Director; Margaret Hind - (Qld, NSW, & Tas) Executive Officer; Mark Dwyer (Tas) - National Vice President, Director & Association President.

Not pictured: Julianne Samandari (WA) - Executive Officer; Vic Andrich (WA) - Association President; Shannon McKiernan (NSW) - Director & Association President.

University Accreditation

EHA has a national accreditation system for universities that want to be recognised to graduate environmental health officers (EHOs). Currently 12 universities across Australia have courses accredited with EHA which include undergraduate and postgraduate qualifications.

The primary objective of all accreditation program is to promote courses that equip graduates with the required skills, knowledge and attributes to enter the profession. Programs state a commitment to supporting academic institutions to consistently meet professional requirements and benchmarks and thereby assure a high standard of professional practice. For over 25 years EHA has been the national tertiary Environmental Health course accreditation body and its accreditation scheme is recognised by State jurisdictions and through enHealth. Our Health University Course Accreditation Policy was reviewed and updated in 2011 which is the current benchmark for universities to meet.

The process for accreditation is described in the Policy and requires a university to make an application to EHA and demonstrate how the university will meet the EHA Policy. Then an accreditation panel is formed by the Course Accreditation Chair and includes an environmental health course academic, State and Local Government representatives and a representative of the Western Australia EHO Professional Review Board. Our partnership with the WA EHO Professional Review Board is to match our respective processes and combine resources to ensure qualifications to practice as an EHO are recognised by both organisations.

EHA has recently added 2 new universities to the accredited family with Central Queensland University (CQU) and University of the Sunshine Coast (USC) receiving their accreditation certificate. Further, Edith Cowan University received accreditation in early 2012 for a new 3 year environmental health course. This university changed their previously accredited 4 year degree. A number of reaccreditations are in the system and the University of Tasmania recently submitted an application for reaccreditation with EHA. Our accreditation system is valued as EHA continues to field questions from other universities seeking advice about accreditation and what benchmark they have to meet to receive accreditation.

Many government and even private employers mandate that a prospective employee must hold a qualification from a university that is accredited/recognised by EHA. For example, to be employed by Queensland Health as an Environmental Health Officer the person must possess a degree accredited/recognised by Environmental Health Australia. This requirement is cemented in Industrial Relations law through the Enterprise Bargaining Agreement for Health Practitioners. It specifically states that an 'applicant must hold a tertiary degree (or equivalent) qualification that is accredited by Environmental Health Australia.' Therefore, if a person doesn't hold an EHA recognised qualification, they cannot work with Queensland Health as an EHO. Further our national accreditation system is accepted internationally through the International Federation of Environmental Health (IFEH).

There is significant choice for prospective students and cadets with on-campus and external learning as well as undergraduate and postgraduate courses across Australia. Obviously the accredited courses also provides students with quality skills for other employment opportunities with a variety of government agencies or private industry.

Information regarding the accredited courses and our Environmental Health University Course Accreditation Policy (2011) can be found on the EHA website.

Bruce Morton

EHA Course Accreditation Chair



EHA/enHealth University Course Accreditation Project

As reported in the previous national newsletter, EHA is managing an \$80 000 project with enHealth regarding University EHO Course Accreditation that will inform EHA's [Environmental Health Course Accreditation Policy](#) to ensure it remains contemporary and embraces the [EHO Skills and Knowledge Matrix](#) released by enHealth.

The project steering group has met a number of times to receive updates from the consultant (Kim Windsor) and two stakeholder workshops have been held in Brisbane on the 22 June 2012 and in Adelaide on the 27 July 2012. The workshop was attended by representatives from EHA, State jurisdictions, universities, local governments and private employers of EHOs. The workshop allowed direct engagement with industry representatives and allowed the participants to go through the project working paper to raise issues and provide feedback to the consultant to inform the project outcomes.

If you as a member would like a copy of the working paper to provide comment direct to the consultant, please contact the National Executive Officer to arrange a copy to be emailed to you.

Bruce Morton

EHA Course Accreditation Chair

National Broadband Network (NBN) Submission

The Australian Government announced a funding opportunity in conjunction with the National Broadband Network (NBN). The funding is to be used for projects that stimulate the development of education, training or skills services designed to take advantage of high-speed broadband connectivity, available through the NBN. The funding was restricted to a range of applicants which included professional associations.

Through its members, EHA saw a great opportunity to take the leading role in the development of nationally consistent environmental health tools that develop education, training and skill services using the NBN.

The EHA national board approved to submit a funding submission of over \$900 000 for the NBN funding to develop an online food safety assessment tool for use by Environmental Health Officers and an online food safety self-assessment tool for use by Food Business Operators and staff. The operator's assessment tool would reflect the assessment tool used by officers and allows a food business operator to conduct their own (voluntary) food safety assessments to determine their own compliance any time and as often as they like.

The outcome of the funding submission is expected within the month and hopefully we can soon report back to all EHA members the success of the funding submission and details of the agreement between the Australian Government and EHA. Thank you to those local governments and State jurisdictions that provided letters of support for the funding submission.

Dave Bellman

EHA member



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH - Advancing Quality of Life



Environmental Health Australia - 37th National Conference 2012

11-14 November 2012

Hilton Surfers Paradise, 6 Orchid Avenue, Surfers Paradise

Hosted by EHA (QLD) INC. and Gold Coast City Council



The conference committee has prepared an informative, interesting and entertaining conference with an amazing array of speakers. The conference will be followed by a couple of two (2) day workshops — the Noise Management Workshop and a Disaster Response Workshop.

The Conference commences with the Welcome Function on Sunday 11th November 2012. A truly memorable Conference Dinner is being held at SeaWorld. Conference details including the registration form are available via <http://www.ehaql.org.au/>.

Keynotes and Invited Presenters include:

Tim Costello AO CEO of World Vision Australia. Tim Costello oversees programs to address the most fundamental environmental health needs of disaster and poverty affected people. Conference delegates will have the opportunity to learn from his experiences and how he communicates key messages.

Dr Phil Jauncey, a performance psychologist, whose activities include corporate facilitation, education of staff and managers, personal success mentoring, counselling and working as a sports psychologist. Dr Jauncey has been working with EH practitioners for several years and will share his insights with delegates about effective communication .

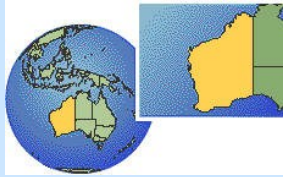
Dr Karl Kruszelnicki. Dr Karl is currently the Julius Sumner Miller Fellow at Sydney University. His role is to 'spread the word' and enthuse the general population about all things science. In September 2003 Dr Karl was named 'Australian Father of the Year'. Dr Karl Kruszelnicki received the Member of the Order of Australia Award in the 2006 Australia Day Honours list. His enthusiasm for science is totally infectious and no one is better able to convey the excitement and wonder of it all than Dr Karl. He will focus on science as a foundation and links to environmental health.

Mr John Merritt, CEO of EPA Victoria. Prior to joining EPA John was the Executive Director of Health and Safety at WorkSafe Victoria and has extensive experience in private, government and not-for-profit organisations.

Mr Christopher Zinn. Christopher is an independent consumer advocate who works with a range of partners to ensure the consumer voice is heard and acted upon. He was latterly director of campaigns and communications at CHOICE and has spent most of his career in print and broadcast journalism.

Mr John Ravlic, National CEO, Local Government Managers Australia. One of our lead partners who EHA have been working with since 2006. He will engage delegates on the challenges and future of Local Government across Australia.

Updates from the States ...



Western Australia

President's report - Vic Andrich

Environmental health workforce is a major issue in Western Australia. In response EHA (WA) recently adopted its 'Workforce Recruitment and Retention Strategy 2012' which aims to promote environmental health at the community level and improve the recruitment of professionals into the environmental health profession.

To address the recruitment of students into the environmental health courses work has already commenced to develop video clips and DVDs featuring young environmental health professionals talking about what's great about being an Environmental Health Officer. EHA (WA) is also establishing arrangements to work proactively with professional groups in local government and the universities in career promotion.

Work has commenced to reinvigorate our Special Interest Groups and formalising representations by EHA (WA) on committees and working groups. A more structured approach will allow more efficient and professional assessment and response to topical issues.

EHA (WA) has commenced preparing to host the 2013 National Conference and as such would welcome expressions of interest to assist, present or sponsor what will be the premier environmental health event for 2013.

The next edition of Environmental Health WA – the Journal of Environmental Health in Western Australia - is being planned and contributors are encouraged to contact the editor to reserve their article space.

Executive Officer's report - Julianne Samandari

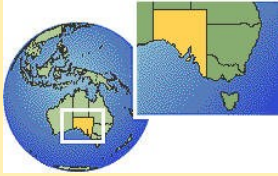
In Early 2012 EHA (WA) Inc. welcomed Corporate Membership applications from two Metropolitan Councils and one Regional Council. The WA Board has recently amended the Corporate Membership policy to provide all Corporate members with greater benefits.

Many FoodSafe customers are now required to develop a Food Safety Program and these businesses are looking for a product that they know, trust and is great value for money. Hence FoodSafe is now available as "The Complete FoodSafe Training Pack " for \$150 plus postage. The pack contains the following items:

- Training DVD – FoodSafe – Your Future is in Your Hands
- Proprietors Disk – Guide for Proprietors - forms
- FoodSafe Plus Disk – Your Hands on Guide to HACCP and designing your own Food Safety Program
- Training workbook – Food Handler Training Program Handbook
- Proprietors workbook – Food Handler Training Program Guide for Proprietors
- Protective Hardcover Folder

FoodSafe products can be ordered from our website <http://foodsafe.eh.org.au>.

Please call Julianne on (08) 6142 3844 or 0448 606 006 or email wa@eh.org.au with enquiries.



South Australia

President's report - Susan Bennett (also National Director)

A very successful State Conference was held in March this year with a very special thank you to the Northern Alliance Councils for their collaboration in delivering such an excellent conference.

In May a Food Seminar was held at the City of Unley and was well attended and received excellent feedback. Thank you to Angela Sorger, Carmel Barber and Gillian Miller for convening the seminar and bringing such relevant and interesting presentations to the Environmental Health Officers and Food Technician students that attended.

I am happy to say Angela Sorger and Louise Jarvis have taken on positions and been voted in as Vice Presidents of EHA (SA) Inc. Their presence and energy will provide stronger leadership and continuity for the organisation. Thank you both. On that note, Dale Mazzachi from Norman Waterhouse Lawyers, and Cimon Bourke (formerly Wallmans Lawyers) have been accepted onto the Board as associate members and Alex Stedman from Adelaide Hills Council was voted on as a Board member at the July meeting. Welcome aboard and we thank them for their commitment.

The Board has endorsed a Food Rating System position paper and the Workforce research paper and these have been forwarded to our relevant stakeholders. It is our aim to endorse the Notification vs Registration position paper within the next few months.

Planning for the 2013 conference has commenced with Helen Psarras heading up the committee. Also, a committee has started to form for the 2014 National Conference to be held here in Adelaide. Getting down to business will start towards the end of the year.

Executive Officer's report - Mina Labaz

The SA Board has recently endorsed the Environmental Health Workforce Attraction and Retention - Research Paper, which has been distributed to our stakeholders and interested parties.

Australian Food Safety Inspection Pads (AFSA) were developed by the South Australian Food Management Working Group in 2003 and are regularly updated. These tools promote accountability and consistency in the monitoring of food safety standards by Environmental Health Practitioners and are designed for and used Australia wide.

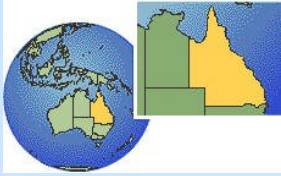
Should you wish to investigate the possibility of using this professional tool please refer to our website www.eh.org.au and click on professional tools then AFSA or alternatively use the direct link <http://afsa.eh.org.au/>.

Orders may be placed via email sa@eh.org.au or phone / fax (08) 8271 9885. Please contact me if you require further information.

Employment Opportunities

Employment opportunities can be advertised on the EHA website for \$198 GST inclusive for the duration of the advert. Forward your advertisements to nsw@eh.org.au for prompt uploading and visit regularly to view current vacancies.

Visit <http://www.eh.org.au/employment/index.php> to check current vacancies.



Queensland

President's report - Belinda Davies

2012 is proving to be a challenging year for environmental health professionals in Queensland. After the State election the Newman government discontinued the employment of most temporary employees, contractors and consultants including several EHOs. The State government is about to announce which additional 15,000 State employees will be made redundant. It is inevitable that this will affect more EHOs – both the ones made redundant and those left coping with excessive workloads. Consequently one of the most important roles EHA Qld has played this year has been one of advocacy. We have written to various government representatives advocating for our members and the broader environmental health workforce, explaining the important role we play and the excellent track record we have.

On a brighter note, we are very fortunate to have a large and committed board who voluntarily take the lead on various projects/programs. Earlier in the year the Qld Board updated our business plan and in a recent face-to-face meeting we started developing some policy statements. Drafts will be made available to members for comment before finalisation and distribution to relevant stakeholders.

EHA Qld continues to partner with the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) and other stakeholders regarding workforce issues. Recently EHA Qld, LGAQ and Griffith University partnered to develop an EHO workforce modelling tool. The tool will be used by local governments to identify the number of FTE EHOs required to complete the local environmental health workload. The tool also provides an indication of future EHO needs based on projected population growth.

All of the Queensland regional groups are active. We are grateful to have such enthusiastic and committed members leading the regional groups, ensuring successful local events for environmental health professionals.

Over the past few years the EHA (Qld) Inc. board has developed an extensive professional development program. Several new courses have been developed based on member feedback and where possible training has been delivered in regional areas. All workshops and courses are highly regarded and well attended. We're currently looking into a few workshops for 2013.

The national conference program is absolutely outstanding. The choice to attend is easy; the hard part will be choosing which concurrent sessions to attend because they all sound interesting. See you there!

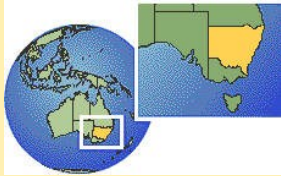
Executive Officer's report - Margaret Hind

Membership of EHA (QLD) INC has grown considerably over the past twelve months with a 13% increase in financial members and a 20% increase in student members.

Since January, members have had the opportunity to attend a Risk Management for Environmental Health in Rockhampton, Contemporary Food Course, Inaugural Public Health School and Pest Management Course in Brisbane. This increase in training and other initiatives has resulted in the need for administration support and many members have already spoken with or emailed to Jessica Martin who is in the office on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

The major focus for this second half of 2012 is the 37th National Conference to be held at Hilton Surfers Paradise from 11 to 14 November, with two-day Noise Management and Disaster Response Courses on 15 and 16 November. The registration brochure and program are available from <http://www.ehaqld.org.au/>.

EHA (Qld) is also holding a Disaster Management Course later in the year. Please contact the office on (07) 3000 2299 or e-mail qld@eh.org.au for more information.



New South Wales

President's report - Shannon McKiernan (also National Director)

NSW ANNUAL STATE CONFERENCE 2012 "Environmental Health - Better Together"

This year's theme was "Environmental Health - Better Together" and the event held on 21 and 22 May 2012 was a resounding success. The venue was superb and the area picturesque. A big thanks to Port Stephens Council for hosting, and to our Sponsors and Exhibitors; NSW Food Regulation Partnership, Building and Environmental Services Today, Database Consultants Australia and Dart Energy.

Why did we chose "Environmental Health - Better Together" as a theme? NSW and ACT Environmental Health practitioners are consistently working within an ever changing environment. How do we as a collective respond to these challenges and ensure we are in control of the future of the profession? The conference provided a forum to showcase initiatives, report on legislative changes, outline challenges and present new plans designed to adapt to the changes facing the profession. By sharing our experiences and ideas we can make our profession "Better Together".

Key note addresses by the NSW Food Authority, Office of Environment and Heritage and emergency management presentations by officers of the Royal Australian Air Force and an EHO involved in the 2011 Queensland Floods really highlighted the strengths of EHOs individually and as a collective. Practical examples of prosecution techniques and local professional development groups also demonstrated the effectiveness of EHOs working in their day to day environment.

The conference provided an excellent opportunity to upgrade 2 members to Fellow Status of EHA (NSW) INC.

- Neil Smith (Building and Environmental Services Today) was acknowledged for his long standing work in the Riverina area guiding and mentoring a generation of health and building surveyors. He has been instrumental in promoting both EHA and the profession in this region during his entire career.
- Paul Reynolds (Camden Council) was acknowledged for his work as both a former Branch Development Officer and now as a Director for EHA (NSW) INC. Paul has taken the challenges facing the profession and has actively sought new membership for EHA over a number of years as well as representing EHA at a range of Local Government and State Government committees.

The conference provided an opportunity for the NSW Food Authority to present their Food Surveillance Champion Awards. This initiative was such a success, the NSW Food Authority hope to make this an annual event with presentation at the EHA State Conference. Congratulations to all the award winners.

The student poster display was a credit to the University of Western Sydney students both past and present, who participated.

The NSW annual State Conference 2013 is planned for the southern region for 2 days in May 2013.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES for NSW and ACT EH professionals

Department of Environment and Heritage and Aelert support with training enabling two P.O.E.O. Workshops, NSW Health presenters the Public Health School, NSW Food Authority upcoming metro and regional one-day Advanced Food Workshops, and Frank Henry's highly regarded Noise Management Course are some of the training opportunities in NSW.

Following discussions with NSW Health, EHA (NSW) INC will be taking an active role in peer reviewing content produced i.e. templates associated with the upcoming Public Health Regulations.

DIRECTORS

Brian Jones, Ian Goldthorpe, Paul Reynolds, Greg Whiteley, Mark Nolan, Rosemary Nicholson and myself welcome new Directors Gerard van Yzendoorn, Jody Houston and Stuart Nunn, filling casual vacancies on the Board.

New South Wales cont.

Executive Officer's report - Margaret Hind

The Online Food Safety Training Program I'M ALERT which is offered nationally by EHA as a subscription service is managed by EHA (NSW) INC. Currently there are 130 subscribing Councils and other organisations offering this comprehensive training to their staff, suppliers, food businesses and food handlers. Further information is available at <http://www.imalert.com.au/index.php> or by phoning 07 3854 1113 if you are not already a subscriber.

The NSW Directors are always happy to hear from you, including suggestions on training that will benefit you in your day to day roles, and any other matters. Please email either to shannon.mckiernan@eh.org.au or myself margaret.hind@eh.org.au or phone (02) 9181 3320.



Member Upgrades: (L-R): Neil Smith; Graeme Tipper (Life Fellow); Paul Reynolds; and Shannon McKiernan.



International Federation of Environmental Health

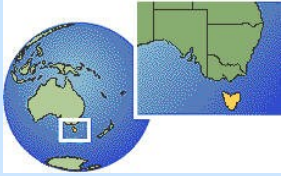
World Environmental Health Day—Wednesday 26th September 2012

The theme of the 2012 World Environmental Health Day is **Building for the future**. The theme is deliberately broad so that each IFEH member, such as EHA, can focus on local issues.

'Building for the future' could refer to public/environmental health infrastructure; specific projects on air, water, nature restoration, sanitation, housing or waste management; or wider campaigns focused on building a healthy population.

How will you celebrate World Environmental Health Day on 26 September 2012?





Tasmania

President's report - Mark Dwyer (also National Director)

I am pleased to report that in recent times we have 2 new Board members to add to our ranks – Stuart Heggie and Doug Doherty have accepted invitations to join the Board. This brings our current numbers up to a total of 8 Board members who are interested and motivated to build further on the momentum and direction we have created for the EH profession in Tasmania.

The Board recently held a strategic planning workshop in Campbell Town to develop a Strategic and Business Action Plan for 2012 – 2013. The Plan identifies a number of strategies and actions across areas that will positively impact on membership and the EH profession generally. The Plan will soon be released to the membership following final sign off by the Board.

To date, in 2012, the Board has organised and conducted professional development seminars in March and June at The Grange Function Centre, Campbell Town. Mini-workshops, one concerning toxicology and another on immunisations, were incorporated into the seminars to both challenge the delegates with scenarios and to provide crucial feedback to the presenters. The membership has suggested that seminar workshops are more stimulating, at times, than listening to presenters so the Board is happy to oblige.

A third electronic newsletter for the year is about to be issued by the Board to all members of the profession in the state. These newsletters are full of interesting local and national information of relevance to the profession and are also posted on the [national website](#) for access.

The Board has given in-principle-approval for the development of a training workshop on food and water sampling techniques for environmental health practitioners. It is proposed that EHA (Tas) will part fund the development of materials for the course together with the Department Health & Human Services and University of Tasmania. Early days yet but more exciting times are ahead!

I have provided this brief overview of some of the activities that have been happening in Tasmania which, of course, can only happen because of the dedicated efforts of our vibrant and enthusiastic Board members.

Executive Officer's report - Margaret Hind

The most recent Professional Development Seminar held on 20th June in Campbell Town was very well attended. Presentations including a Student Research Project: Safe Compost Production, Immunisation Update – Local Government Issues and Workshop: Toxicology in Environmental Health were all interesting and informative.

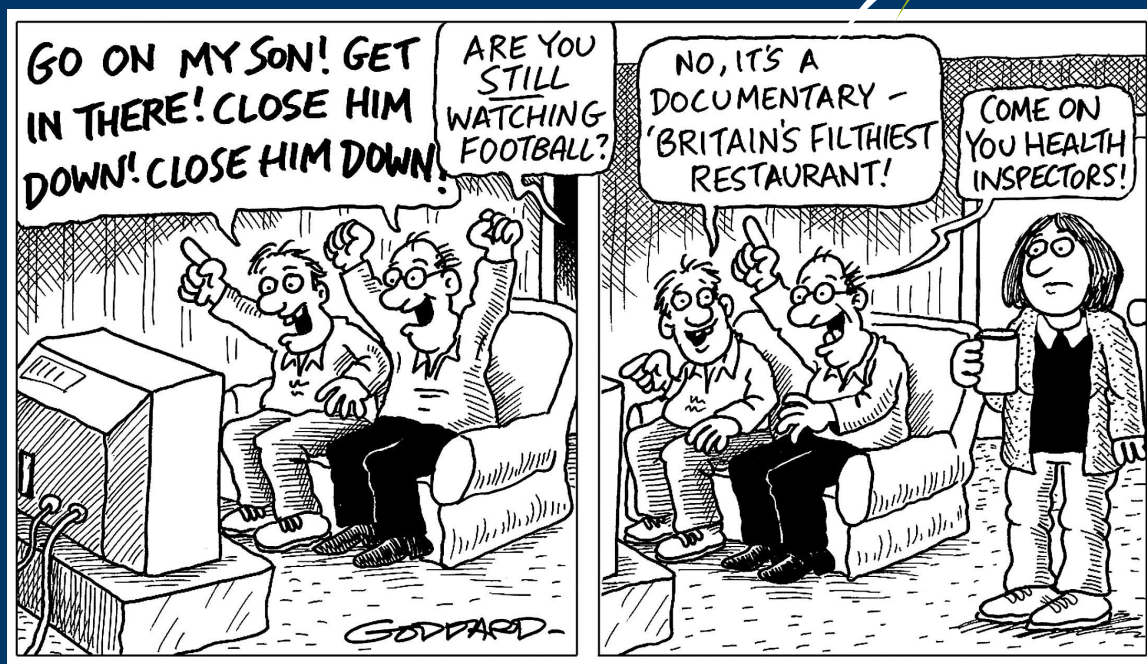
Directors are currently concentrating on developing a stimulating and thought provoking program for the upcoming State Conference – *'ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH: MAKING A DIFFERENCE'* 3- 5 October at the Southern Lights Hotel, Kingston—just south of Hobart. Information including the Registration form is available on the [EHA website](#) and will be mailed to members. Consider submitting a Paper and sharing your expertise.



Victoria

The national board is currently considering its options for launching a new EHA association in Victoria. Please contact Victoria Mohkami, National Executive Officer, on (07) 3000 2288 or e-mail national@eh.org.au if you would like to offer suggestions or volunteer to help.

A bit of fun ...



Food Safety Music—Microbes Medley

The [Microbes Medley](#) on YouTube shares some food safety facts to the tune of Queen's 'We will rock you' and 'We are the champions'. Check it out when you need a good laugh or use it in your next food safety presentation.

Warning: 'Microbes, they might kill you' will get stuck in your head!



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EHA

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