

December 2022

EHA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER

Spring Edition

This is our final National Newsletter for 2022! How this year has sped by!

We've had some fantastic events this year, including our National Conference in Launceston, Tasmania in September.

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

We're looking forward to another action packed year in 2023 with you!

WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE

Message from the President

WEHD 2022

National Update

IFEH World Congress on Environmental Health in 2024

State Updates

Upcoming Events

The history of the Emergency Management Course

Student Research

Socials

Feature Article - Role and functions of an Australian Centre for Disease Control

News Abroad

CAHA quarterly summary

Messages from our National Associate Members



Message from the President

By Philip Swain

I am humbled to have been reappointed as your National President following our recent Annual General Meeting in Tasmania. I thank the Board for their faith, and I will endeavour to serve all our Members, over the course of the next year, to the best of my ability.

It has been a busy couple of months since our last newsletter and pleasing to see an increase in activity on a variety of fronts that impact the profession of environmental health. EHA is participating in current discussions at Commonwealth level around the establishment of a Centre for Disease Control (CDC) in Australia and we have a strong belief that, whilst supporting such a centre, that it should include a substantial role in prevention, as well as control. On this subject, EHA will in December, conduct one of our “live-chat” sessions with Dr David Dyjack from NEHA in the United States and Associate Professor Sophie Dwyer (PSM), former Executive Director Queensland Health and a former Chair of enHealth. Sophie has written recently on the subject of prevention and the CDC and we look forward to an engaging and informative discussion on the subject. I encourage Members to attend the live-chat, or view the recording after the event, as this is a subject that has the potential to impact us all in the future.

I would like to thank Wendy Gambley and EHA (QLD) for the opportunity to attend, and participate in opening the 80th Queensland Symposium in Dalby, in September. It was a great couple of days and a rewarding experience for all who attended. It was also great to meet Bob Handby, after crossing paths for so many years, and I wish him well with his book “You Will Go, Wont You?”, launched at the symposium, about his many missions working overseas in environmental health disaster relief. It was also my pleasure to assist with the opening of the 45th EHA National Conference at the Country Club, Tasmania in Launceston from Monday 26th - Friday 30th September 2022. The conference themed “Environmental Health - Celebrating Triumphs and Tribulations” was well attended following the difficulties of Covid19 over the last three (3) years and a great success with a broad range of speakers on a variety of topics. I commend EHA Tasmania, Melissa Burn and her team for the development, administration and running of such a great event.

I was able to announce, back in August, that the International Federation of Environmental Health 17th World Congress will be held in Perth, Western Australia. We look forward to welcoming hundreds of delegates from around the world to Perth from 20th -24th May 2024. I again encourage all members, and environmental health professionals from around Australia, to get those dates in your calendar and to consider making the pilgrimage to Perth for what will be a great opportunity to showcase our profession on the world stage.

On the workforce front there has been a flurry of activity following the change of government and a series of studies and working groups at the national level, which to some extent is telling us what we already know, that there are significant shortages of environmental health officers and other professionals across the country. Your National Board is hopeful that some of these findings will find pragmatic and constructive actions at federal and state level, to help the profession moving forward.

The start of summer has coincided with another Covid19 wave (the fourth wave) with varying impacts across the country. Whilst many in your community may have lapsed into a state of apathy with the pandemic it is important, as professionals, that we keep reminding people that it is not yet over. The figures in relation to morbidity and mortality are still sobering, despite the media having lost interest. The latest data has shown that disease incidence is climbing again in all jurisdictions and whilst the levels are still well below the previous waves it is important to remember that some of that apathy in the community is leading to significant under reporting. As a profession we need to keep promoting vaccinations and the basics of disease prevention and control in our communities, something I know many of you are still pushing hard on.

Predictions of heavy rainfall events along the East coast have also eventuated and we empathise with those communities and environmental health officers in the front line dealing with the flood crises. There has been some media coverage of the potential for mosquito breeding and other issues in these areas, so this is no time for complacency within our communities. I encourage all environmental health officers and professionals to be vigilant to the evolving issues in your community over what is likely to be a difficult summer for many.

Finally, I encourage everyone to stay safe during the holiday period and wish you the very best for the Festive Season and a happy and rewarding 2023.

Yours in environmental health

Philip Swain LFEHA

National President

Environmental Health Australia



National Updates

Upcoming LiveChat on disease control and prevention is scheduled for December 15th. We will have speakers from PHAA and NEHA to discuss topics surrounding disease control in both Australia and America. To watch this LiveChat, simply go to the [EHA Facebook page](#) at 9am (GST +10) to view live and join in the discussion.



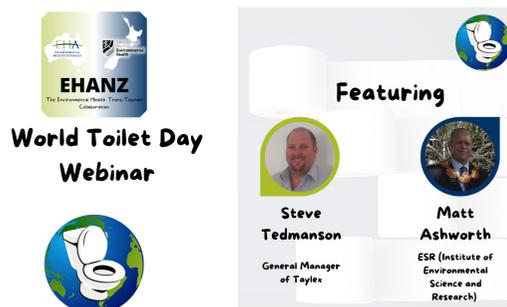
Food Safety Week LiveChat

Food Safety week took place in the 3rd week of November and EHA hosted a LiveChat with guest speakers discussing the risks of raw or undercooked meat and toxoplasma. If you were unable to attend the LiveChat, a recording is now available on the EHA YouTube channel [HERE](#)



EHANZ webinar - World Toilet Day

Our final EHANZ webinar for 2022 was held on November 17th for all NZIEH and EHA members with a focus on sanitation and waste to celebrate World Toilet Day. If you were unable to attend the webinar, a recording of this event and all other EHANZ webinars is now available through the [EHA website forum](#). If you have an difficulty logging into the website forum, please email samantha.smith@eh.org.au for assistance.



EHA CPD Policy

EHA has a new Continuous Professional Development (CPD) Policy.

CPD is an ongoing process throughout a member's career. The CPD policy outlines the framework that will guide members in maintaining, improving and broadening their skills and knowledge. CPD focuses on planned ongoing development related to a person's occupational role and the development or enhancement of personal and professional qualities which are beneficial to their career as an Authorised officer.

Here's some key points you need to know about our new CPD policy and how to achieve your CPD points:

CPD Cycle

The CPD cycle now runs over **1 financial year** from 1 July to 30 June.

Amount of CPD

A minimum of **20 hours** of CPD in each CPD cycle is required by participants and that CPD should demonstrate:

- A balance across the skill development areas; and
- A range of types of CPD activities.

Type of CPD -Skill development areas

Skill development areas include, but are not limited to:

- Prosecutions
- Risk management (including legal framework and responsibilities)
- Auditing Investigation skills
- Communication/education/advocacy/conflict resolution
- Technical skills updates e.g. food, water, noise and air pollution, terrestrial environment, building etc
- Emergency/disaster management
- Project Management
- Policy Development Budgeting/Financial Management
- Strategic Planning
- Climate change

Range of CPD activities

All CPD which helps you maintain competence, stay up to date and is relevant to your scope of work practice will meet the requirements.

Learning occurs through a wide variety of CPD activities. Examples include, but are not limited to (please note more examples are on the

CPD policy document):

- Higher education/accredited courses.
- Conferences, forums and seminars.
- Undertaking research and presentation of work.
- Online learning and internet research.
- Quality assurance activities, such as accreditation, audit or review of records.
- Participation in committees relevant to your work practice.
- Work-based learning contracts and employment- related professional development.
- Professional interactions such as meetings e.g. issue reviews, forums (may be online or face-to-face).

Undertaking your day-to-day routine work duties cannot be counted as CPD

Record keeping

You should keep records of your CPD portfolio and your CPD activities for at least five years from the date you completed the CPD cycle.

Pro rata CPD

Members who become financial part way through a CPD cycle should complete a minimum of five hours of CPD for every three months of the remaining cycle.

Please familiarise yourself with the new EHA CPD policy by clicking [HERE](#)

IFEH World Congress on Environmental Health in 2024



[Click here for more information](#)

PERTH CITY | TOURISM WA

CONGRESS THEME

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH IN THE NEW ERA

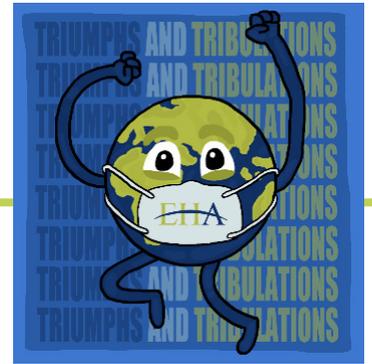
The global pandemic of COVID-19 has had profound impact on the today's society. This World Congress will evaluate how public health is addressed in the future and explore new ways to better maintain and improve public health standards.

<p> MONDAY 20th of May 2024 IFEH Council meetings (invited delegates)</p> <p> TUESDAY 21st of May 2024 IFEH Council meetings (invited delegates) Workshops 5pm Welcome to WA and early registration</p> <p> WEDNESDAY 22nd of May 2024 Opening Address and Keynote presentations Concurrent Sessions 7pm President Dinner- by invitation</p>	<p> THURSDAY 23rd of May 2024 Opening Address and Keynote presentations Concurrent Sessions 5pm Cocktail function</p> <p> FRIDAY 24th of May 2024 Opening Address and Keynote presentations Concurrent Sessions Technical Tours (half day) 7pm Conference Dinner</p> <p> SATURDAY 25th of May 2024 & SUNDAY 26th of May 2024 EHA National Board Meeting</p>
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Congress Attendance- Environmental Health Australia has 1304 members nationally. We will host a meeting for our partners, the Environmental Health Educators Forum who will have academics from Environmental Health Courses from around the world attending the World Congress.

Total anticipated numbers include 550 domestic and 200 international attendees.

45th EHA National Conference 2022





The 45th EHA National Conference was hosted by Tasmania and held in Launceston from 26 to 29 September 2022. This is the first national conference since EHA WA hosted the event in 2019. It was wonderful to have members from all state associations come together for the first time in 3 years to learn and celebrate the environmental health profession.

The week started on Monday 26th September with two masterclasses, Skin Penetration and Infection Control and Methamphetamine testing and remediation. Later that day the conference was officially opened by the Premier of Tasmania the Honourable Jeremy Rockliff MP at a welcome function.

On Tuesday 27th September all delegates were warmly welcomed to the Meander Valley Council by Mayor Wayne Johnston. There was a keynote presentation by Dr Emily Flies from the University of Tasmania, presenting on human-environment interactions to create health and sustainable communities. This was followed by a discussion panel on the impacts of climate change on public health. At the end of the day delegates went by bus to the Cataract Gorge where they were able to experience a chairlift ride then a networking function.

Wednesday 28th September the conference was addressed by Wes Ford, CEO of the EPA on behalf of the Honorable Roger Jaench MP, Minister for Environment and Climate Change. There was a keynote presentation from Professor Katie Flanagan on her world first research on vaccines for vulnerable people. During the evening delegates were able to participate in a social evening of Disco Bingo.

Thursday 29th September was the final day of the conference with presentations from Councillor Elizabeth Re about women in Environmental Health, International Environmental Health issues including a presentation from Tanya Morrison, the President of the New Zealand Institute of Environmental Health. The conference concluded with a health and well-being presentation by Megan Savill and the conference bell being passed onto Western Australia, ready for the next National conference which will be held concurrently with the IFEH World Congress.

The end of the conference was celebrated with the Dinner and Awards night where the winner of the Margaret Hind Memorial Winner was announced. Congratulations to [Toni Cains, NSW Health](#)

Tasmanian environmental health awards were announced during the awards evening including:
TAS Environmental Health Professional of the Year - Michelle Ogulin, Launceston City Council
TAS Early Career Environmental Health Professional of the Year - Madeleine Fleming
TAS Environmental Health Team of the Year - University of Tasmania - Environmental Health Team
TAS President's Award - Stewart Quinn

The conference program was broad and covered all key aspects of environmental health from vaccines, to food, drinking water, mosquitoes, research and everything in between. It was an amazing week of learning and reconnecting with our colleagues after many years apart.

Thank you to our conference supporters:





EHA (TAS) Inc.

State Award Winners 2022

TAS Environmental Health Professional of the Year

Michelle Ogulin, Launceston City Council



TAS Early Career Environmental Health Professional of the Year

Madeleine Fleming

TAS Environmental Health Team of the Year

University of Tasmania - Environmental Health Team



TAS President's Award

Stewart Quinn



EHA (TAS) INC CPD recipients 2020-2022

Alicia Wilson

Karen Welsh

Simone Salter

EHA (TAS) INC Fellow

Simone Salter



EHA (SA) Inc.

State Award Winners 2022

SA Health Award

City of Salisbury and Healthy Environs



EHA (SA) Inc Award for Outstanding Mentor

(from Helen Psarras)

Amedeo Fioravanti



Award for Excellence

(from Cimon Burke, Kelledy Jones Lawyers)

Tina Simos



Award for Leadership

(on behalf of the Rural City of Murray Bridge)

Emily Hudson



EHA (SA) INC CPD recipients 2020-2022

Brittany Hespe



Thank you to the EHA (SA) Inc conference sponsors

Gold Sponsor



Silver Sponsor



Bronze Sponsor



State Updates

EHA (QLD) Inc.

State Award Winners 2021-22

QLD Environmental Health Professional of the Year

Hannah Davis



QLD Early Career Environmental Health Professional of the Year

Benjamin Rochester



QLD Environmental Health Team of the Year

Metro North Public Health Unit



QLD President's Award

Dianne Francisco, Balonne Shire Council



EHA (QLD) INC CPD recipients 2020-2022

Harold Figueroa FEHA

Tanya Klaric

Natasha Musgrave

Kristen Granata

Wendy Gambley

EHA (QLD) INC Fellows

John Piispanen

Harold Figueroa

James Williams



EHA (QLD) INC 80th ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

13-15 September 2022, Dalby

“Environmental Health – It’s the EHOs that make it”

Hosted by the Western Downs Regional Council (WDRC), the EHA (QLD) INC 80th Annual Symposium was held at the Dalby Events Centre on 13 and 14 September 2022, incorporating the Enviro School training event on the 15th.

The symposium began with a Welcome to Country from Aunty Mabery Fogarty and was followed by the official opening by Western Downs Regional Council Mayor Paul McVeigh. The EHA National President, Phil Swain, and the EHA (QLD) INC President, Wendy Gambley welcomed the delegates which set the scene for the rest of the symposium in terms of the importance of the profession and the valuable contribution that the profession makes to the land and the community.

The program included waste management, JEV, water management, asbestos, vapping, SDGs, food and had a focus on high performing teams – how do you make it work within your organisation? This was supported by a keynote presentation from Melanie Roche who shared her experience as an Olympic softball player and what it means to work as a team (encouragement, engagement and resilience).

We were fortunate to have Bob Handby AO in attendance to provide a keynote presentation on his life as an EHO. The delegates were treated to a copy of Bob’s Book “You will go, won’t you?” in their conference satchels and were delighted to have the book personally signed by Bob.

The next symposium will be held in the Brisbane metropolitan area. More details will be available shortly.



EHA (QLD) INC SYMPOSIUM 2022 WAS SUPPORTED BY





EHA (NSW) Inc.

State Award Winners 2022

NSW Environmental Health Professional of the Year

Sharomi Dayanand, Wagga Wagga City Council

(Sponsored by Open Office)



NSW Early Career Environmental Health Professional of the Year

Tara Arduin, Penrith City Council



NSW Environmental Health Team of the Year

Tweed Shire Council

(Presented by Professor Tim Flannery)



NSW Environmental Health Student of the Year

Sarah Kemp, Penrith City Council

(Sponsored by the Rand Family)



NSW Special Achievement Award

Dr Maggie Davidson, Western Sydney University



EHA (NSW) INC CPD recipients 2020-2022

Evelyn Vickery

Matthew Rand

Andrew Mathieson

EHA (NSW) INC Life Fellows

Dr Greg Whiteley

Brian Jones

EHA (NSW) Inc Fellow

Fellow: Lisa Hughes



EHA (NSW) INC ANNUAL STATE CONFERENCE
 16-18 AUGUST 2022, NEWCASTLE
 “Environmental Health – Reconnect, Respond, Restore”

From the 16th to the 18th of August 2022 Environmental Health Professionals from across the State came together in Newcastle under the theme, ‘Environmental Health – Reconnect, Respond, Restore’. Given it had been three years since the last NSW conference, due to Covid-19 and other events – it was extremely exciting to finally reconnect face to face with our EH peers and colleagues after being on-line for so long!

The conference was officially opened by the Honourable Brad Hazzard MP, Minister for Health, who paid tribute during his opening address to the important work conducted by Environmental Health Professionals across the State particularly in light of numerous recent natural disasters, the COVID-19 pandemic and the recent JEV outbreak.

The conference covered all key aspects of environmental health bringing together presenters from a variety of disciplines across the broader Environmental Health profession. There was also a focus on disaster and emergency management to reflect key events experienced over the past few years, our learnings, our responses, and what this means moving forward as we aim to restore public and environmental health for our communities.

As anticipated attendees were delighted to once again hear from Professor Tim Flannery who delivered our conference keynote address and signed copies of his new book ‘The Climate Cure’ during the event.

The conference presented an opportunity for EHPs to extend their skills and knowledge, network with their peers and explore opportunities for future collaboration. We encourage everyone to join us at the next NSW State Conference scheduled for September 2023 in Wagga Wagga. Watch this space for further details.



NSW Board with Minister Brad Hazzard MP

EHA (NSW) INC CONFERENCE 2022 WAS SUPPORTED BY



Natural Resources
Access Regulator



Our Environment, Our Health, Our Future



EHA (WA) Inc.

State Award Winners 2022

Gold Medal

2021 Undergraduate
Hannah Lethbridge
2021 Postgraduate
Danielle Windisch



Harold Salter Award

2021 Undergraduate
Hannah McDonald



Team Award

City of Rockingham



Early Career Award

Bikram Shergill



Thank you to the EHA (WA) Inc conference sponsors & Exhibitors



Government of Western Australia
Department of Health
Public Health



Our Environment, Our Health, Our Future



EHA (WA) INC

Change in Presidency for EHA (WA) Inc.

This year we farewell Vic Andrich, EHA (WA) President for the past 11 years. Vic has stepped down in order to focus his attention on the IFEH World Congress in 2024 which will be held in Perth, WA.

Vic has been an active member of EHA over many years and has been in various leadership roles in both the WA And National Associations. Internationally, Vic is the Chair of the Asia and Pacific Group of IFEH, (International Federation of Environmental Health). He has also previously served as the Chair of the IFEH council (for 4 years) and EHA representative on the IFEH on various occasions over several years. He is also Secretary of the WA EHO Professional Review Board which accredits qualifications to practice as an EHO in Western Australia.



Welcome to our new EHA (WA) President - Andrew Waters

I have had several career changes through my working career and chose to study environmental health later in life. I was the oldest in my class of 2015 at Flinders University.

I didn't immediately start working in environmental health and it wasn't until 2017, in going to Zambia as part of the EHA/ZIEH Twinning Program that my interest in the local government aspect of environmental health took hold. In 2018 I resigned as director of population health in WA Country Health Service (Kimberley) and took a change of career direction, joining the Shire of Broome as an environmental health officer.

Not long after, I was appointed as the coordinator of environmental health and nominated for a position on the EHA WA board in that year. Although unsuccessful, I was invited to attend meetings as an observer and stood again in 2020 when I was elected to the board.

I'm fascinated and challenged by where the environmental health profession finds itself - the local government setting, rural/metro comparisons, tropical and temperate variations, local, state and commonwealth jurisdictions. In becoming WA president, I hope to be able to make more sense of it all and contribute to the profession by bringing insights from other work roles and settings.



State Events

Upcoming

New South Wales

December 2022: POEO in the Park WEBINAR

Online

Members Price - \$0

Non-Members Price - \$0

[Watch the EHA \(NSW\) website for more details](#)

11th - 13th September 2023: Annual State Conference

Wagga Wagga

Members Price - \$

Non-Members Price - \$

[Venue to be confirmed](#)

2023: Noise Management

[Dates and venue to be confirmed](#)

December 2022: NSW plastic ban update – what does it mean for Councils? WEBINAR

Online

Members Price - \$0

Non-Members Price - \$0

[Watch the EHA \(NSW\) website for more details](#)

2023: POEO in the Park

[Dates and venue to be confirmed](#)

2023: Public Health School

[Dates and venue to be confirmed](#)

2023: Swimming pool and water quality workshop

[Dates and venue to be confirmed](#)

Tasmania

February 2023: Professional Development Seminar

Campbell Town

[Dates and venue to be confirmed](#)

Western Australia

27th - 28th April 2023 : 76TH EHA (WA) STATE CONFERENCE

The Westin, Perth, WA

Members Price - \$715

Non-Members Price - \$1,025

[Registrations Open 9th January 2023, 12am](#)

[Registrations Close 12th April 2022, 11:59pm](#)

Jan/Feb 2023 : Aquatic Facilities – dos, don'ts and decisions

[Watch the EHA \(WA\) website for more details](#)

26th April 2023 : 76TH EHA (WA) STATE CONFERENCE MASTERCLASS

The Westin, Perth, WA

Members Price - \$715

Non-Members Price - \$1,025

[Registrations Open 9th January 2023, 12am](#)

[Registrations Close 12th April 2022, 11:59pm](#)

20th May 2024 : 2024 IFEH WORLD CONGRESS

Perth, WA

Members Price - \$800 (estimate only - TBC)

Non-Members Price - \$1,250 (estimate only - TBC)

[Registrations Open 1st November 2023, 12am](#)

[Registrations Close 6th May 2024, 11:59pm](#)

Emergency Management Course

Author Duncan Moore - Life fellow of EHA

Disasters in particular natural disasters/emergencies are a constant threat in Australia. The 1983 Ash Wednesday Fires of 1983 affected areas from the Adelaide Hills in South Australia through many parts of Victoria to the New South Wales border.

Two areas of great significance in Victoria Mt Macedon approximately 50kms to the west of Melbourne and Cockatoo approximately 50 kms to the east were the major areas affected by the Fires. There were more properties and homes lost along the Great Ocean Rd but these were primarily holiday homes. Mt Macedon and Cockatoo were like chalk and cheese, Mt Macedon with its stately homes and wealth and Cockatoo a lower social economic area which primarily relied on assistance from outside sources.

Following the fires the Health Inspectors who worked at Cockatoo (Ray Goudey, Bob Handby from the then Shire of Sherbrooke, Peter Dunn from the Shire of Pakenham and Duncan Moore from the Shire of Lilydale, approached their professional body the Australian Institute of Environmental Health "AIEH" Victorian Branch. The purpose was to have the "AIEH" circulate an invitation to all Health Inspectors especially those who had been involved in the "Fires" to attend a meeting to discuss what were the issues they had. It was their belief Health Inspectors needed training in responding to emergency/disasters, as all found themselves wanting of knowledge, understanding and support.

In May 1983 a meeting was held and attended by nearly every affected municipality in Victoria. It was resolved that a training course for Health Inspectors responding to an emergency/disaster be developed and this was put to the State Council of the "AIEH" who approved it, on the condition that an Interim Development Committee be formed.

Invitations were sent out to those who attended the meeting and by July 1983, a Committee comprising of Ray Goudey, Bob Handby and Duncan Moore was formed. The reason for the small response was many of the affected councils were a long way from Melbourne and in those days, computers were not a part of most Councils operation. However, all of these Councils were kept informed of the progress of the "Committee" who responded with comments as they arose.

Two organisations played a huge part in the development of the course, the School of Army Health where the course was run for the first ten years. With the support of relevant commanding officers at the School, it provided content, instructors and field demonstrations.

Captains Doug Barnes and Matthew Waixel (later Major Waixel) and Major Peter Oliver provided much of the input into the structure of the course and initially its delivery. Matt after leaving the ADF, continued to assist at the course where he was a presenter for twenty years.

The other organisation which played a vital part in the development of the course was, the Australian Counter Disaster College now known as

Emergency Management Australia "EMA".

EMA has continued to be a major contributor in the development of the course and the assistance given by people such as Roger Jones former Director, Allan Cameron, Colin Fiford, Nicholas Kanarev, Mike Tarrant, Barry Dean, Merrick Chadsfield, Annette Mitsfud, Judy Parker, John Haddock and Joanne Achison has contributed to the success of the course.

Out of all emergencies, outcomes are made which enhance response to future such incidents. Here in Victoria one of the changes that came about as a result of the Ash Wednesday Fires, was the implementation of the Victorian Emergency Management Act in 1985. This Act, was to have wide spread and lasting implications on future planning and response to an emergency.

Prior to 1985 planning and training for disasters / emergencies was primarily the foray of the Police, Fire Services, Medical services ie hospitals and ambulance services.

The above Act changed all that as nearly all Statutory Authorities and Agencies along with many Non Government Organisations ie Red Cross, Salvation Army thru subsequent requirements as outlined in the Emergency Management Manual Victoria had a role.

Full article can be read [HERE](#)

Student Research

Ellen Wauchope

2022 Honours student supervised by Harriet Whiley and Kirstin Ross, Environmental Health
Flinders University

Biofilms are communities of microorganisms, such as *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and *Staphylococcus aureus*, commonly found in potable water systems. Warm damp environments such as faucets, drains and shower-heads provide an ideal climate for these pathogens to grow. Biofilms in contaminated taps and shower-heads can aerosolise and disperse in the air, leading to a person breathing in these pathogens. Biofilms in potable water systems are a frequent cause of hospital-acquired infections (including MRSA and *Pseudomonas* infections) and the primary source of Legionnaires Disease.

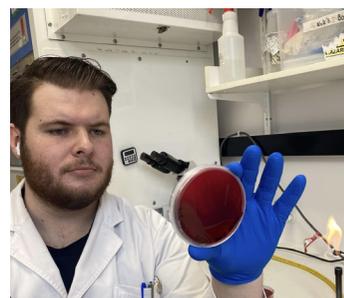
Pseudomonas aeruginosa is a waterborne pathogen that thrives in contaminated water systems. *Staphylococcus aureus* is a non-waterborne pathogen, yet it is frequently identified in potable water outlets; thus, colonisation occurs through contamination. My research aims to investigate the role of aerosolisation on the spread of biofilms and to identify factors contributing to the transmission of *P. aeruginosa* and *S. aureus* biofilms from a contaminated surface to another surface.



Jackson Marshall

2022 Honours student supervised by Harriet Whiley and Kirstin Ross, Environmental Health
Flinders University

Streptococcus pyogenes, commonly known as Group A streptococcus (GAS) is responsible for an array of acute, invasive and sequalae diseases. Within Australia GAS has been coined as a hyper endemic by some academics. It is estimated that within remote indigenous Australian populations 49% of the population will have an impetigo (scabies) infection. The majority of the research focused on GAS is aimed at treating rather than preventing infection. This research considers prevention methods in the form of surface disinfectants. GAS is notorious for forming biofilms from its M-proteins, which enable prolonged survival on surfaces, but the extent of it on surfaces is not well characterised. Infections arise from interactions with contaminated surfaces. This research aims to observe the interactions of GAS with sanitizers on an array of surface media to provide insight into which sanitisers are optimal for removing GAS from different surfaces.



EHA Socials

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



September

Fantastic day tours to finish off the EHA National Conference here in Tasmania!

October

EHA Margaret Hind Memorial Award 2022 Recipient - Congratulations to Toni Cains! The Margaret Hind Memorial Award is the only national award offered by EHA. This is a special award recognising outstanding commitment to the environmental health profession, for integrity, work ethic and achievement. Toni is a well-respected high achiever and has had an outstanding career in environmental health. Toni leaves a legacy to the industry in relation to the improvement of state and national policies and to the scientific community of environmental health through research. Toni's valuable contribution to the wider environmental health community covers many aspects of the profession including legionella, skin penetration, bed bugs and COVID. Her contribution to the profession is without measure. She is a technical expert who is methodical and responsive to her work. Toni has supported many EHA conferences and events, speaking and fostering others to attend and speak to share their knowledge and expertise. A true quiet achiever and deserving recipient of the Margaret Hind Memorial Award for 2022. Congratulations Toni..

November

EHA (TAS) Training Courses this week - Great to see everyone at day 1 of the EHA (TAS) noise course with @FrankHenry today in Hobart. We've got more on this week yet with our Assessing Noise Impact on DAS happening on Wednesday in Hobart and on Thursday in Launceston.

#noise #EH #training



September

Safe tattoos - Environmental Health Officers like Helen Psarras are safeguarding the health of customers and workers in all aspects of public health, including the tattoo and piercing industry.

#publichealth #tattoo #ink #body #piercing #EH

October

NEW EH Job Listings ... Good Luck Applicants!

#EH #joblisting #work

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#noise #EH #training



September

Happy World Environmental Health Day!!! Today is WEHD 2022 & EHA is celebrating at our National Conference in Tasmania this week. We also took part in an @NZIEH online discussion with @nehaorg, @MAEH4U, @The_CIEH to discuss this year's theme youtu.be/YrgdwkWB8

#WEHD22

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The Margaret Hind Memorial Award is the only national award offered by EHA. This award recognising outstanding commitment to the EH profession, for integrity, work ethic and achievement..

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#EH

Role and functions of an Australian Centre for Disease Control

Examining a massive influence on our health: The Environment

This is an excerpt taken from the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care document Consultation paper – November 2022.

Australia's public health capability is strong – it has managed numerous ongoing health threats and seen us through a number of epidemics and pandemics over the years. However, the world is continuing to change and so must we with it. While Australia has been more successful than many other countries in responding to certain health threats, what has become clear is that our national approach to public health has significant gaps that should be filled – if we are to confidently face the challenges that lie ahead.

Prompted by the COVID-19 pandemic, our international counterparts are moving forward with plans to revitalise or establish their own public health agencies. The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (US CDC) is undergoing major changes to its structure and systems with a focus on public health action emphasising accountability, collaboration, communication and timeliness. It is moving away from its current, more academic approach and towards rapid risk assessment leading to emergency and public health response. Singapore and New Zealand are establishing their own new public health agencies.

The pandemic has been a prompt to address the key issues and improve on our existing systems – it is a clarion call to do better. Opportunities for change and improvement in Australia

include:

- developing a robust, centralised and coordinated national approach to all aspects of public health in Australia, including threats to human health, accounting for the interaction between humans, animals and the environment.
- increasing capacity and capability in the public health workforce during times of crises and pressure, particularly in relation to skills integral for emergency response such as contact tracing, laboratory analysis and infection, prevention and control.
- strengthening leadership on key public health issues – from preventive health to environmental hazards.
- strengthening timely, trusted, consistent and clear national public health advice and guidance – particularly that is responsive to emerging threats and needs, and
- developing national data systems and management which meet national and jurisdictional needs for informing timely, adequate and efficient health responses across all hazards, and that link into international partnerships and collaboration.

For many of those who work in Australia's public health sector, this will not be a revelation. The COVID-19 pandemic has certainly brought many of these issues to the front of government, academic and public consciousness. But for epidemiologists, public health clinicians across the human and animal sectors, environmental health

officers, communicators and so many others – it is confirmation that while our approach is not broken, we need to evaluate and address the shortcomings.

In response to these, the Government has committed to improving pandemic preparedness and response by establishing an Australian Centre for Disease Control (CDC) that would:

- ensure ongoing pandemic preparedness.
- lead the national response to future infectious disease outbreaks' and
- work to prevent non-communicable (chronic) and communicable (infectious) diseases

Establishing a networked CDC or public health agency could:

- enhance Australia's existing public health response mechanisms.
- improve preparedness for the next pandemic and other health emergencies.
- boost response capacity, and
- strengthen prevention, communication and national coordination and enhance collaboration across all levels of government.

Full article can be downloaded at: https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/role-and-functions-of-an-australian-centre-for-disease-control?fbclid=IwAR2svt_DXLcQn-DupsulwveNAld65RsjKeUAZf0uh-0lmQnEYiXpQqEiYjpo

New Zealand Institute of Environmental Health (NZIEH)

Kia Ora Aussie friends,

It is hard to believe Christmas is nearly here – this year has flown by!

Our fourth and final EHANZ webinar for the year was held on Thursday 17 November to recognise ‘World Toilet Day’. It was a great webinar kicked off with a recorded message from Jack Sim, the founder of World Toilet Day and we had interesting presentations from speakers Matt Ashworth (NZ) and Steve Tedmansen (AUS) Thank you to everyone who attended, we hope you have enjoyed these collaborative webinars this year and we look forward to bringing you more in 2023. Don’t forget if you missed the webinars, the recordings are available for both EHA and NZIEH members.

Here in NZ our regional branch representatives have been busy hosting face to face events for our members which has been a long time coming! Speaking of face to face, I had the privilege of representing NZIEH at your Australian National Conference in Launceston, Tasmania. I thoroughly enjoyed being a part of your successful event. I am also pleased to pass on congratulations from all of us here in NZ for gaining the hosting rights for the next International Federation of Environmental Health (IFEH) World Congress, to be held in Perth, May 2024. Our National executive will be looking for ways we can support our members towards attending and supporting this event where possible.

We are very excited to announce our NZ Professional Development Conference will be held in Christchurch (in the South Island) 7-9 March 2023. This will be a face to face event in the stunning new Te Pae Convention Centre with an exciting ‘walk and fork’ dinner experience at the world-renowned Antarctic centre included in the conference. So, if you’re a fan of husky dogs, penguins or snow mobile rides, check out our speakers and registration details here.



From our side of the ditch to yours - we wish you a safe and enjoyable festive season!

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



Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH)

As I enter my final year as the President of CIEH I'm glad to have the opportunity to invite colleagues from Environmental Health Australia to join my final CIEH Presidents Challenge. As some of you will know we have done two previous challenges, being virtual walks along iconic British coast paths, the first being to help colleagues dealing with the mental and physical challenges of working from home during the COVID outbreak, and second because the first proved to be so popular and a whole community of environmental health colleagues, their friends and families grew up around the first and wanted to continue. Almost as an aside money was raised for a charity selected by the group we planted trees to tackle climate change as we progressed along the walks and we donated meals to people who needed them as we hit the halfway point.

After taking on the 630 mile South West Coast Path for the first challenge and the 870 mile Wales Coast Path for the second final I have chosen the Best of British route for the final challenge. It's a 750 mile route that takes in some of Britain's most iconic landmarks on a route from London to Scotland wiggling its way via Stonehenge, Bath, Stratford on Avon, the Lake District, Edinburgh, over the Glenfinnan Viaduct to end at Urquhart Castle. As with previous challenges participants will be sent virtual postcards as they progress along the route, can elect to have a T shirt or to plant a tree, will get a medal on completion of the challenge and will, in addition to all that contribute to tackling climate change by planting trees, one for each 20% of the route they complete and to tackling hunger by having a meal donated in their name when they complete 50% of the route. Unlike previous challenges this one is open to those who wish to cycle the route either on a 'proper' bike or on exercise bikes, so if cycling is your thing you can take part too.

One of the things I didn't expect when I set up the challenges was that there would be interest from outside the UK in joining in. I had hoped that a few family members, friends and ex-pats might be inclined to join in, and they did, but things have stepped up a notch this year. I'm delighted that for this challenge we will be joined by colleagues from the New Zealand Environmental Health Association as well as our colleagues from the NEHA in the USA and by colleagues in France and Germany. I'd like to extend an invitation to any colleagues in Australia to join. It would be great to have you on board, joining if you wish to the community of Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/groups/424604738857880/> and seeing the 'sights' around Britain as well as getting benefits of walking or cycling and making a difference to our chosen charity.

I always stress that the challenges are not a race. They are a personal challenge and participants can take as long as they like to complete them, provided they finish within the year of the life of the challenge. My comments notwithstanding some people go off like a whippet and finish in very short order, then go round again. We have a number of double medal winners from both the previous challenges, and I know of at least two environmental health departments where there has been what's best described as 'friendly rivalry' among the participants. It's also the case that we get to see some great places and no small number of participating dogs through the photographs of the participants who post on the Facebook group. This summer we stepped things up in the UK and had a Presidents Challenge walking weekend, which involved camper vans and caravans, a BBQ, some walking and some entirely predictable rain, but which turned out to be great fun. It would probably be a step too far to suggest you join us for that, but the invitation will be there...

To the when and how much. When is straightforward, the challenge will start on the 1st January 2023, to coincide with New Year's Resolutions and the need to ditch post-Christmas excess, and will end on the 31st December 2023. How much? The cost will be £30, (about \$54) with £10 (\$18) the entry fee going to the as yet to be finalised environmental charity. To sign up go to <https://endtoend.run/cieh-best-of-british/> The last date for signing up is 30th June 2023, which past experience shows still gives participants plenty of time to finish.

I do hope you will join in. This is my final challenge and I'd like it to be the biggest and best and certainly the most inclusive. It's open to everyone, not just environmental health colleagues, so please spread the word and come and join us. It just remains for me to wish all of you a very happy Christmas and a safe and healthy New Year from me, and from all of us at CIEH.

Julie Barratt,
President CIEH

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

September

Sophie Scamps' motion in Parliament

Monday was a big day! Dr Sophie Scamps MP brought a debate about the National Strategy, which was supported and commented upon by the Members for Canberra, Warringah, Higgins and Kooyong. [See the full video and transcript here](#). We have since thanked Dr Scamps for her climate-health leadership.

Discussion paper: Indigenous Nation Building and the Political Determinants of Health and Wellbeing

The [discussion paper](#) has been published by the Lowitja Institute in partnership with the UTS Jumbunna Institute for Indigenous Education and Research. It demonstrates that self-governance and self-determination through nation building results in improved health outcomes for Indigenous peoples.

A big Better Futures Forum!

It was wonderful to see so many of you last week in Canberra (and online!) for our Better Healthier Futures Roundtable, followed by the Better Futures Forum. It was a busy and productive week. Watch this [3-minute video](#) of CAHA founder Fiona Armstrong, who reports back from the week that was. The [AMA](#) also sums it up nicely.

Our home, our body, our planet

Takuzo Kimura, CAHA volunteer, is a physiotherapist with a passion for planetary health and holistic practice. In [this piece](#) published in PHAA's InTouch blog, he reflects on the links between our internal and external worlds, and the health benefits of nature. Thanks, Taku!

Staff availability over the next little while

A couple of announcements from the CAHA team:

- Our beloved colleague Milly Burgess has landed a dream job in Hobart! Congrats Milly! We are lucky to have her until Friday 7 October, after which point our Office Manager, Ben Mouat, will be assisting with membership while we find her replacement. Please note that our capacity to respond to requests may be reduced over the next few weeks.
- For the next two weeks, Roland Sapsford and Fiona Armstrong will be travelling internationally to the Health Care Without Harm Global Coordination Council Meeting. Their capacity to respond to requests will be reduced and via email only.

Watch back! Always caring for Country with the Lowitja Institute

In case you missed this incredible conversation between Dr Summer May Finlay and Dr Janine Mohamed on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander strength and leadership in responding to climate change - check out the [recording here](#).

Australasian Nutrition in Health Conference 2023

CAHA member [Doctors for Nutrition](#) invite you to their 2023 conference in Melbourne. Some of the biggest names in whole food plant-based nutrition and healthcare will share their research, including:

[Prof Boyd Swinburn](#) - how the health effects of climate change will compound current nutrition challenges
[Dr Peter Johnston](#) - talking about food systems and the environment

October

A fantastic week for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander led campaigns

We have been buoyed by so many great wins this week in campaigns led by Traditional Custodians:

- Tiwi Islands' Munupi elder defeats Santos in landmark court case. The Federal Court found that Santos failed to consult Tiwi Traditional Owners as required, and the company must now vacate the Barossa field by October 6.

[Read the story](#)

- Australian climate inaction violates Torres Strait Islanders' human rights, UN finds. The decision calls on the government to pay compensation to the inhabitants.

[Read the story](#)

- Origin Energy has withdrawn from the Beetaloo Basin and the Kimberley. "Whether it's Origin, Tamboran, Santos or any other company, Traditional Owners will continue our opposition to fracking which we worry will damage our country, water, sacred sites and songlines" - Johnny Wilson, NNTAC spokesperson.

[Read the story](#)

- Yeelirrie area Traditional Owners have welcomed the expiry of the environmental approval to mine uranium on their land, which they have fought against since the 1970s.

[Read the story](#)

Always Caring for Country: a discussion on leadership and representation – and some victories

Croakey News covered our Healthy Conversation with the Lowitja Institute, "Always caring for Country." Drs Janine Mohamed and Summer May Finlay covered lots in one hour, from the Voice to Parliament to strength-based framing, to climate action led by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. [Read it here](#)

Research opportunity for psychologists

Australian psychologists (provisional, fully registered and/or endorsed) are invited to complete this short (10-15 min) online questionnaire on how prepared you feel and how professionally engaged you are on climate change. Complete the [survey](#)

New in the MJA: "Climate change, society and health inequities"

Professor Sharon Friel calls for the health community to advocate for policy to "avert a planetary health inequity crisis."

[Read more](#)

"Implementing a national strategy that brings together climate change, inequality and health, such as the proposed Climate and Health Alliance's Healthy, Regenerative and Just framework, is essential." We appreciate the endorsement, Professor Friel!

COP27 Health Community recommendations

CAHA has co-developed and signed on to a set of recommendations for governments ahead of COP27. This [summary](#) outlines what the health community will be calling for at COP27.

Better, Healthier Futures Roundtable report

Thanks to all the attendees who gave feedback on our draft report back on our roundtable in September. [Here](#) is the final report.

"Disaster diplomacy in the wake of the 2022 Pakistan floods"

CAHA Advocacy and Policy Manager, Arthur Wyns has written a new article for The Lancet Planetary Health on loss and damage relating to the Pakistan floods. [Read more](#)

"Harnessing the pillars of institutions to drive environmentally sustainable hospital food services"

CAHA Sustainable Healthcare Program Manager, Dr Stefanie Carino has written an article for Frontiers in Nutrition on how to drive long-term sustainable change in hospital food services. [Read more](#)

A big budget win for our Alliance after a decade of advocacy

We warmly welcome the initial \$3.4 million investment in Australia's first National Health and Climate Strategy and first National Health and Sustainability Climate Unit, announced yesterday. Here's our [media release](#).

November

COP27 is in its second week

Week 2! It appears Australian Climate Minister Chris Bowen has been warmly received, and entrusted with a leadership role in the struggling negotiations on funding climate financing for poor and vulnerable countries, as [reported](#) by Adam Morton.

The [Climate Change Performance Index](#) was published this week, and it shows Australia still firmly behind in meaningful action to mitigate or adapt to climate change.

Many of the events at COP27 are accessible online for free. Here are some [events](#) that might interest you.

Thank you to Arthur Wyns, CAHA Policy and Advocacy Manager, for making himself available for half-hour Zoom chats throughout the conference. You can catch up on these [debriefs here](#)

Healthy Conversation: What does COP27 mean for our health?

Thank you to our Policy and Advocacy Manager Arthur Wyns for giving us half-hour updates on Zoom throughout the conference! If you'd like to watch these sessions back, check them out [here](#).

A worthwhile read: Statement from Nayekaat Dramani Sam, Climate Vulnerable Forum Ambassador for Youth at COP27

We really recommend reading this [transcript](#) of a striking speech by Nayekaat, a 10-year-old girl from Ghana, at COP27.

18 coal and gas developments being 'reconsidered' right now

A legal victory! The Environment Centre of Central Queensland and Environmental Justice Australia successfully sought '[reconsideration](#)' of 18 fossil fuel developments by the Environment Minister because of the potential climate impacts. If these projects are overturned, this decision would set a vital precedent for the future.

Right now, the government is seeking public comment on each proposal until tomorrow, 24 November! If you have time, now is a great time to submit your comments. This is a very live campaign that's come on quickly following the legal win. Read more details about how to [submit comments](#).

High Risk Weather Season Preparedness Briefing for the disability sector

This Friday, the National Emergency Management Agency is holding a 2022 High Risk Weather Season Preparedness Briefing specifically for members of the disability sector. The briefing will provide a seasonal weather outlook and an update on current preparedness activities. Feel free to share this invite with others. To register, please contact disabilityhrws@nema.gov.au

State of the Climate report out today!

The Biennial State of the Climate report by CSIRO and the Bureau of Meteorology came out today! Here's the report and [our media release](#).

Open Office

By Rebecca Magill

City of Bunbury signs up to Open Office Health Manager solution

[Open Office](#) (part of [ReadyTech](#)) recently welcomed the City of Bunbury as a new customer. The City of Bunbury will be implementing Open Office's world class environmental health management solution, Health Manager, which will further empower the City to deliver outstanding services to their community.

Designed in collaboration with Environmental Health Officers (EHOs), Health Manager is the leading solution for environmental health activities. The solution provides a range of mobile business tools, using Windows and iOS tablets and smartphones, to create a truly mobile workforce. Health Manager offers a seamless, intuitive, and customisable software that facilitates effective interaction with your community.

The solution will provide the City with a reliable system to undertake assessment and compliance of food businesses and support it in meeting its legislated obligations regarding health inspections of food premises.

The mobility function will also enable Environmental Health Officers (EHOs) to conduct inspections in the field whether they're connected to the internet or not. Automatic switching between online and offline mode means that coverage black spots will no longer restrict City of Bunbury EHOs to paper forms, removing duplication and reducing time in commuting to and from the office.

The intuitive design allows centralised tracking and scheduling of inspection data for complete visibility. The City can leverage the system to automate inspections based on assessed risk and frequency, ensuring transparency with comprehensive, real-time reporting.

The City of Bunbury joins several Local Government Authorities across WA who have implemented Health Manager, including the Town of Victoria Park, the Shire of Murray, and the City of Mandurah.

Learn more about Open Office's Health Manager solution [here](#).



By Andrew Mathieson

Glow2Show is a new range of training aids for EHO and food business

Colleagues I wanted to let you know about a new product First For Training (FFT) have developed with the manufacturer and just taken to market! Glow2Show is unique in that its Australian made and a great teaching aid for checking both handwashing and surface cleaning techniques.

The idea is to spray a little (single spray is enough) of the brightly coloured Glow2Show on the kids / food handlers hands (photo 1) check with the UV torch ... rub hands together and it seems to disappear. Shine a UV torch and the hands and they glow orange (photo 2). Get the kids food handlers to use foam or alcohol hand sanitiser and test again. The hands still glow ... this shows if they didnt 'clean their hands' just sanitised .then the bugs are still present. The hands still glow as sanitiser only works on clean hands! Get the kids food handlers to wash properly (soap, water + rubbing + rinsing for 2 mins then dry thoroughly) and test again. If they have done a good job the hands are clean and no Glow2Show is visible under UV ... maybe they missed the nails or webbing between fingers!

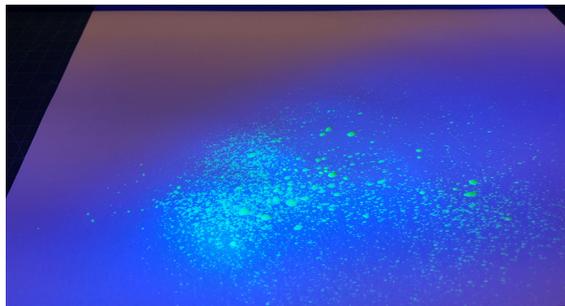
Glow2Show is also great for surface cleaning techniques ... spray Glow2Show (it imitates a 'sneeze' (photo 2) or contaminated droplet splash)... its visible and glows ... wipe and the visible colour disappears as it smears... the surface still glows and now the cloth glows showing the cross-contamination risk ... then we can wash with detergent and it is much better or even gone!

Glow 2 Show is a great training kit for EHO and food managers where education is a priority!

Glow2Show is non-toxic, low irritant, safe4kids, washable and classified as a toy!

Glow2Show was recently demonstrated to experts from the Food Safety Information Council (FSIC), they said it was innovative, a new tool from an old technology, worked well for hand wash and surface cleaning training.

Check out the new products at <https://firstfortraining.com.au/shop>



EHA National Board Christmas Indulgences 2022

Looking for some Christmas recipe inspiration this year? The EHA National Board has you covered with their favourite 2022 Christmas recipes. But be warned, once you start eating some of these recipes you may not be able to stop!



Have a Happy and Safe festive season!

EHA

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AUSTRALIA

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



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Our Environment, Our Health, Our Future