

March 2023

EHA NATIONAL NEWSLETTER

Summer Edition

Welcome to another new year!
2023 is off to a great start at EHA with planning for state conferences well underway. We're also excitedly planning for the IFEH 2024 World Congress on Environmental Health being held in Perth, Western Australia from 20th - 24th of May 2024!

Unfortunately, at the time of writing this our friends in New Zealand are recovering from a series of severe weather events. Our thoughts are with all our NZIEH friends and our members in the area who have been affected.

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

WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE

Message from the President

Cadetships in Environmental Health? Why Not?

National Updates

State Updates

Upcoming Events

Back to School Competition Winners

Feature - How an Australian Centre for Disease Control Can Reinforce Environmental Health Systems and Services

CAHA Summary

Feature - Deadly Nightcap Mushrooms

Socials

Feature Article - Arrangement between the Environmental Health Standing Committee and the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency

News Abroad

From our National Associate Members



Message from the President

By Philip Swain

As I write this message to Members, I am pleased to report that I am in Queensland, working with another dedicated panel, to undertake the re-accreditation of the University of Sunshine Coast undergraduate environmental health degree. This will be the penultimate such exercise in this five year-round of accreditations, with only the Central Queensland University undergraduate course to be accredited in coming months.

Our next five yearly review of the EHA/enHealth developed Accreditation Policy will commence shortly and I look forward to constructive input from all stakeholders, as the policy approaches 10 years since alignment with the enHealth 'Environmental Health Officer Skills and Knowledge Matrix'. I take this opportunity to thank all those committed professionals from state governments, local governments, and our universities for their valuable volunteer contribution to this most important work on our accreditation panels.

As another year has rolled around, so has the seemingly endless stream of reports on disasters, be they local floods, our near neighbours experiencing a devastating cyclone or the catastrophic earthquake in Turkey and Syria. Whilst these events have catastrophic effects on lives and property and clean-up and rebuilding takes years and costs billions of dollars, it is worth reminding ourselves that we are all potentially engaged in a significant challenge. And that challenge is to prepare our communities, for future events, through disaster risk reduction. If you haven't done so already, I encourage all members to familiarise themselves with the UN Sendai Disaster Risk Reduction Framework and look at your own community through that lens, as this is something that is going to impact us all in the years to come.

I mentioned last newsletter that EHA was participating in discussions at Commonwealth level around the establishment of a Centre for Disease Control (CDC) in Australia and that we have a strong belief that, whilst supporting such a centre, that it should include a substantial role in prevention, as well as control. I'd like to thank Dr David Dyjack from NEHA in the United States and Associate Professor Sophie Dwyer former Executive Director Queensland Health and a former Chair of enHealth for their contribution to discussions on the subject through our "Livechat" last December. I'd also like to acknowledge the many people who assisted with the EHA submission to the working group on the Centre for Disease Control and especially James Williams from EHA Queensland for his contribution, constructive critique and passion for the task at hand. Our submission is available on the National Website, and I encourage all members to familiarise themselves with the content, watch, and if possible contribute to, the debate around the establishment of the Australian CDC.

Again, the International Federation of Environmental Health 17th World Congress will be held in Perth, Western Australia 20th -24th May 2024. Our Association in Western Australia are already working hard to develop and promote the event and I commend their efforts. If you are interested in contributing to what will be a great opportunity to showcase our profession on the world stage, look for the call for papers in the coming months.

Summer 2022-23 coincided with another Covid19 wave (the fourth wave) with varying impacts across the country and whilst the media may have lost interest, the statistics are still frightening, with some 10,000-doctor certified, Covid 19 deaths in 2022, across Australia. As a profession we need to keep promoting vaccinations, especially with the newest ATAGI statement recommending an additional COVID-19 booster dose for adults, to address waning of protection against severe COVID-19 prior to winter. As the ATAGI statement says, "this will provide an increase in protection against severe illness and protect the healthcare system during a time of high demand."

EHA, through the National Board and State Associations is continuing to promote the concept of Cadetships, Traineeships, and Internships as a component of a programme to lift enrolments of environmental health students in our accredited courses. And address what is a worsening shortage of officers across Australia. I encourage all managers in environmental health roles to consider your organisations ability to contribute to the education and training of staff, in this way, as we all approach the challenge of our 2023-24 budgets. If you need to, please don't hesitate to contact our State Executive Officers for template documents and assistance.

Yours in environmental health

Philip Swain LFEHA
National President
Environmental Health Australia



Cadetships in Environmental Health?

Why Not?

As National President I have been advocating for some time now that employers, especially local governments, give serious consideration to developing the environmental health officer workforce by taking on a cadet, trainee or establishing an internship. So, it may come as a surprise, to some, that this concept is not new and that I was initially a cadet health surveyor, working in the northern suburbs of Perth in the early 80's.

I can honestly say that the skills, knowledge and experience I developed in those four years at the then City of Wanneroo were instrumental in the career that I later developed. I became a Director of Community Services in an inner-city local government, before branching out on my own to run a contracting and consultancy business these last 16 years. Consequently, I feel I bring some credibility to the concept, and some empathy to the role, I believe is both a mutual opportunity for worker and employer, but also something that can make a substantial contribution to the shortages that we have across Australia.

In the 1980's, and for that matter up until the 2000's, all courses to train EHO's were undergraduate degrees, something that became the minimum education standard for officers in the early 1990's. Courses were certainly not geared toward part time study and I used to traverse the city of Perth up to four times a week, going from what is now Joondalup City to Bentley where Curtin University is located (the campus was known as the Western Australian Institute of Technology in those days and became Curtin University in January 1987) just to get to lectures, labs and tutorials for half of the units in a semester's study programme. Lots of evening classes and often doing labs and lectures with students from numerous other science degrees, it was nonetheless rewarding to be studying and applying that knowledge in the workplace.

I did leave the employment of Wanneroo and undertook a year of fulltime study, to finally graduate and move to work in a regional local government scheme about two hours from Perth. Providing services to ten local governments through a scheme where I worked with two other officers, the work experience and practical knowledge I had gained, about particularly local government development roles and legislation were invaluable in my early career. And I often wondered how those that hadn't come through a cadet system managed, given the depth and breadth of the role of an EHO.

Having been involved now for a number of years with the EHA Accreditation Programme for environmental health courses, I can say that I think the alternative education options are a great opportunity for employers to develop their own workforces.

Whether they utilise a Graduate Diploma course, with technical staff, articulating into an Undergraduate Degree, as Edith Cowan University have provided for, or the availability of substantially on-line Post Graduate Degrees for science and applied science graduates, the system today lends itself to the cadetship concept.

And I do hope that environmental health managers across Australia will look seriously at these options.

National Updates

17th IFEH WORLD CONGRESS
20-24 MAY 2024
PERTH, WESTERN AUSTRALIA



We can't wait to see you in Perth, May 2024!



Scan here
for further
information



Preparations are underway for the 2024 World Congress on Environmental Health being held by EHA (WA) in Perth next May!

For more information click [HERE](#)

This is a fantastic opportunity for Australia to show case innovative solutions to a wide range of new, emerging and fundamental public and environment health challenges.

If you would like to be notified when further information becomes available for the 2024 World Congress in Perth, please click the link below and fill out the [Expression of Interest Form](#).

Congratulations Bruce and Anne!

Congratulations to Bruce Morton on his recognition to the Environmental Health Profession as a finalist in the Citizen of the Year category at this year's Ipswich Council Australia Day Awards.

Bruce was recognised for his active role in providing support to the community by leading the Public Health Unit's pandemic response, supporting initiatives that aim to improve health for vulnerable groups and as a member of disaster management groups.

Bruce is a strong advocate for the West Moreton community and represents the region's health interests at state and national levels. Bruce Morton is a Fellow of Environmental Health Australia. He started his journey with the Australian Institute of Environmental Health (AIEH) as a student member in 1992. He was upgraded to an Associate Member in 1996 and a Full Member in 1997.



He became a Member of the QLD State Council in 1998 and over a 15 year period, held the executive positions of President, Vice President, and Treasurer. Bruce was actively involved in the EHA accreditation program and convened special interest groups on communicable disease for many years.

Bruce is a loyal, active and valued member of the association. Congratulations on your recognition as a finalist of the Ipswich Council Australia Day Awards.



IFEH Academic Faculty Forum

Congratulations to Professor Anne Roiko for being appointed as the Chair of the IFEH Academic Faculty Forum.

Professor Roiko is a Director on the EHA (QLD) INC Board, the course coordinator for Environmental Health at Griffith University and was awarded the 2019 EHA (QLD) INC Environmental Health Professional of the Year.

The membership of the Academic Faculty Forum includes environmental health university leaders from around the world. The objective of the Forum is to collaborate, share knowledge and experiences and learn from each other. Professor Roiko is a valued member of the EHA Educator's Forum whose members are course coordinators of the EHA accredited qualifications.

Anne's collaboration at the international level will be of great benefit to the EHA forum.

State Updates



EHA (WA) Inc.

For 2023 our EHA (WA) Inc. **State Conference** will be held during 26-28 April. This is the 76th state conference and this year it includes the opportunity to attend one of three full day masterclasses all being held on 26 April. The masterclasses will cover Food, Asbestos and Safety Essentials for environmental health professionals in routine duties and when deployed in emergencies. The conference will be held at the Westin Hotel in Perth.

Speaking of emergencies, January 2023 saw record breaking floods affect the small Kimberley town of Fitzroy Crossing and a number of outlying and downstream communities. It wasn't long before environmental health professionals including several from outside the Shire of Derby West Kimberley were deployed to the town to contribute to response and recovery efforts. Recovery will take time with the only sealed road through the Kimberley reliant on the bridge over the Fitzroy River at Fitzroy Crossing being irreparably damaged. Thoughts are with the many residents affected by the floods and the Shire of Derby West Kimberley's environmental health team continuing recovery efforts as well as having to actively manage adult mosquito problems in and around town.



EHA (NSW) Inc.

We are thrilled to announce that the **2023 annual Environmental Health Australia (NSW) conference - “Environmental Health - Connecting paths less travelled”** will be hosted in the region of Wagga Wagga, located on the land of the Wiradjuri nation, a place of dance and celebration all together. The conference is set to take place on 12-14 September 2023 in the backdrop of splendid colours of Spring.

Wagga Wagga is a major regional centre for the Riverina and Southwest Slopes region in New South Wales. The city straddles the meandering Murrumbidgee River and is the state's largest inland city. Located between Sydney and Melbourne, it offers a rich diversity of services. It is a bustling hub of sports, education, agriculture, military, transport, and more.

We invite you to come and enjoy the rolling hills of canola crops, rustic city themes, and the warm hospitality of the locals. Discover the delicious food and wine, wonderful museums and galleries, tranquil riverbank, gorgeous gardens and parks, and the fascinating heritage.

The conference will enhance your learning and networking experience. It will showcase the latest case studies and research in the field of environmental health, with a range of keynote speeches, presentations, and workshops. You will have the opportunity to meet with experts in the field, engage in collaborative discussions, and explore new approaches to environmental health.

We look forward to welcoming you to the 2023 EHA (NSW) conference in the picturesque region of Wagga Wagga. This promises to be a memorable and enriching experience that will help advance your knowledge, inspire your passion for environmental health and will connect you with paths less travelled!



Events

Upcoming

Queensland

17th March : DD/SW Regional Group Meeting
Council Chambers, Kingaroy, QLD

Price - \$0

Registrations Open - Close 9th March 5pm

8th May : Methamphetamine testing and remediation workshop

Brisbane TBD

Info to come on the EHA(QLD) website

23rd - 28th July : Environmental Health Disaster Management Course

Hotel Grand Chancellor Townsville

Registrations Open 13th March 12am

New South Wales

14th September : Annual State Conference and Masterclass

WAGGA WAGGA RSL CLUB

Members Price - TBD

Non-Members Price - TBD

Registrations Open 5th June 12am

8th March : International Women's Day Webinar

Webinar

Members Price - Free

Non-Members Price - Free

Register online

Western Australia

26th - 28th April : 76TH EHA (WA) State Conference (Including Masterclasses)

The Westin, Perth WA

Members Price - \$745

Non-Members Price - \$1100

Registrations Open - Close 12th April 11:55pm



26th April: Conference Masterclasses

The Westin, Perth WA

Members Price - \$350

Non-Members Price - \$490

Registrations Open - Close 12th April 11:55pm

20th - 24th May 2024: 2024 IFEH WORLD CONGRESS

Perth WA

Members Price - ~\$1,100 (price is estimate only)

Student Price - ~\$550 (price is estimate only)

Non-Members Price - ~\$1,475 (price is estimate only)

Registrations Open 1st November 12am

Watch the Video

Competitions

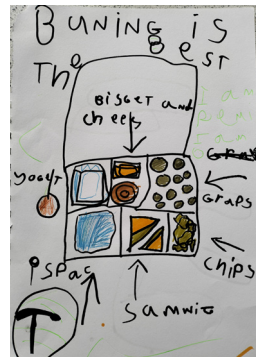
Back to School Safe Lunchbox Competition!

Thank you to all our fantastic entries for our Back to School Competition, the judges had a hard time deciding our winners. Congratulations to **Sebastian Bailey** as our overall winner and to **Remi Bailey**, **Ziggy Silva** and **Makai Silva** for their stand out entries!

Overall Winner: Sebastian Bailey



Remi Bailey



Special Mentions

Makai Silva



Ziggy Silva



IFEH World Congress on EH Logo Design Competition!

EHA want to invite our members to design a logo for the 2024 World Congress on Environmental Health for your chance to win a \$250 voucher towards your registration to attend the congress.

The design can incorporate the 2024 World Congress theme “Environmental Health in the New Era,” or highlight Western Australia as the location of the congress, and could include things such as flora, fauna, or any of the wonders of Western Australia, or include a bit of both! Be sure to also incorporate the IFEH logo and, if possible, the EHA logo.

The winner will receive \$250* that can be used towards 2024 World Congress registration, workshops/ technical tours or EHA organised activities during the event.

Entries close at 11:59pm on March 22nd and should be submitted via the EHA website:

<https://www.eh.org.au/resources/competitions>

Good Luck!



How an Australian Centre for Disease Control Can Reinforce Environmental Health Systems and Services

Journal of Environmental Health - NEHA.org

The following is an excerpt from the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) Journal of Environmental Health, March 2023 edition.

The Australian government is working to establish a Centre for Disease Control (CDC). The goal is to ensure pandemic preparedness, lead the federal response to future disease outbreaks, and prevent noncommunicable and communicable diseases (Australian Government, 2022a).

This news is welcomed as Australia is the only country in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) without a CDC or similar national organization (Australian Government, 2022b).

The nation is uniquely placed to build on lessons from other countries to create a “world-class” Australian CDC by reinforcing environmental health systems and becoming the champion for evidence based policy.

In Australia, local authorities along with state and territory governments manage and address environmental health risks (Australian Government, 2022c).

These risks include air pollution, food safety, water quality, waste management, sanitation, infection control, animal and pest management, occupational health, hazardous materials (e.g., asbestos, lead), risk assessment, and education (Environmental Health Australia, n.d.).

The majority of environmental health professionals in Australia are employed in local governments (Whiley et al., 2019). More broadly, the profession works

across disciplines to ensure the safety of essential public health services.

The management of environmental health risks in Australia over recent decades has been distributed across government and many non-health agencies (Dwyer, 2022).

This distribution has included shifting the management of risks to town planning, water management, and occupational health, and public health issues becoming dominated by clinical perspectives (Dwyer, 2022; Whiley et al., 2019). For example, strongyloidiasis, an issue primarily in Indigenous Australian communities, is largely due to failing wastewater systems, inadequate waste collection and

disposal, overcrowding in houses, and inadequate veterinary care; however, these risks are often overlooked in favour of clinical treatment with ivermectin (Hays et al., 2017; Whiley et al., 2019).

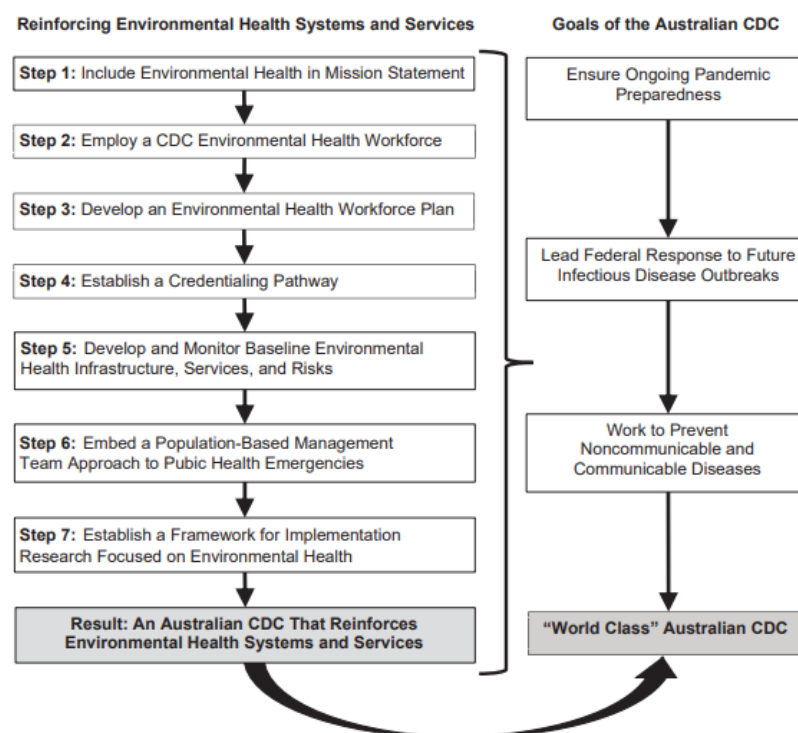
The success of this treatment has reduced environmental health advocacy without preventing reinfection, which demonstrates that clinical intervention alone cannot solve public health challenges (Ross et al., 2017; Taylor et al., 2014; Whiley et al., 2019).

There is an urgent need to reinforce environmental health at a national policy level

Full article: [HERE](#)

FIGURE 1

Steps to Reinforce Environmental Health Systems and Services and Goals of the Australian Centre for Disease Control (CDC)



EHA is a part of the Climate And Health Alliance (CAHA) and as such we receive 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

December 22

Climate and health journal articles

The Australian Journal of General Practice has some interesting articles on climate and health in the 2022 December edition.

- Health risks from indoor gas appliances - [here](#)
- Respiratory inhalers and the environment - [here](#)

Australian home insurance in climate affected communities

A recent report from the Climate Council; '[The Great Deluge](#)', outlines that the 'storms and floods that affected southeast Queensland and coastal New South Wales in February and March 2022 were equal to Australia's costliest ever extreme weather event'. [The Insurance Council of Australia](#) warns some towns repeatedly impacted by flooding may become uninsurable without changes to the current model.

Build 'Em Up podcast - National Rural Health Alliance (NRHA)

Interested in rural and remote health? CAHA member [National Rural Health Alliance](#), have a great podcast series [Build 'Em Up](#) featuring upbeat local community experiences and inspirational rural health stories to help build the health and wellbeing of rural, regional and remote communities. [View all episodes here](#).

Database of healthcare environmental impact assessments

A new paper from Healthcare LCA in The Lancet Planetary Health Journal offers an overview of the open-access repository for healthcare related environmental impact assessments across 20 years of research. [Read more here](#).

January 23

Sustainable transport campaign kicking off!

In 2023, CAHA is working on a new campaign Healthy Transport Choices to promote healthier, cleaner, low emissions ways of getting around. As you likely know, the health hazards from our fossil fuel powered, car-centred transport system are immense, particularly around air pollution, physical inactivity and road trauma. Our transport system is also a major contributor to Australia's greenhouse gas emissions. If your organisation would like to learn more about the campaign and how we can work together to promote better health outcomes, please email liz.chase@caha.org.au

Evaluation of the psychological impact of racism on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

Everyday racial discrimination could explain nearly half of the gap in psychological distress experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults, compared to non-Aboriginal Australians. This is according to [new research published in the Lancet](#) in December, the first evaluation for any First Nation population of the impact of racism on a population's burden of psychological distress. [Probono Australia](#) published a brief overview of the report, with commentary from co-author and Indigenous health expert Dr Janine Mohamed from the Lowitja Institute.

Climate and health in the media

A selection of climate-health news in the media. Please share these where you can:

- [Drought, fire, flooding and storms are ravaging Australia. Where can we find hope and connection?](#) An inspiring article by CAHA member Dr Arnagretta Hunter in Guardian Australia, 12 Dec
- [Climate change and extreme weather events have doctors worried](#) in The New Daily, 11 Jan, with commentary from CAHA member Dr Kate Wylie
- [As devastating floods raise wide-ranging health concerns, experts stress importance of planning for future climate events](#) in Croakey News, 12 Jan
- [Not cool: push for insulation in all Australian rental homes as study shows dangerous heat levels](#) in Guardian Australia, 16 Jan

February 23

Gas usage and your health

The health effects from fossil gas use, especially within homes have been in the news recently here and in the United States. These links provide some evidence-based insights on this issue:

- [Population Attributable Fraction of Gas Stoves and Childhood Asthma in the United States](#) - Journal article US
- [Health risks from indoor gas appliances](#) - Journal article AUS
- [What to Know About the Risks of Gas Stoves and Appliances](#) - Article US
- [Viva Energy Gas Terminal Project](#) - CAHA submission (April 2022)

Do you undertake environmental volunteering?

University of Queensland is undertaking research to better understand environmental volunteering and what motivates people to do it. CAHA has been approached to share this survey with our members, and we would encourage people to share it more widely if you feel it is appropriate.

[Find more information here and complete the survey here.](#)

More ways to work in climate change and health

we are launching a [new webpage](#) with a range of paid, unpaid and study opportunities for people who want to spend more time working on climate change and sustainability in healthcare. Here we have listed jobs, volunteer roles, fellowships, short courses and more. If you know of any good opportunities which should be included on this page, let us know!

CAHA's recent submissions

Check out our recent submissions:

- [Pre-budget submission 2022-23](#): Implementing an Effective Health and Climate Strategy, which makes the case for properly funding implementation of the National Health and Climate Strategy
- [Wellbeing submission](#): Developing Wellbeing Indicators for Australia, proposing ways to integrate a climate and health perspective into this important work

Reducing the impacts of plastics in healthcare

Victoria's new single use plastics (SUP) ban came is now in effect! This may affect your workplace in various ways. Check out these resources for more information around SUP bans and impacts in healthcare:

- [Sustainability Victoria | Information about the SUP ban](#)
- [Webinar recording | How to reduce the impact of plastics in healthcare](#)
- [CAHA resources | Reducing SUP in healthcare](#)

New report: Homes, Health and Asthma

CAHA member [Asthma Australia](#) has released a new report, Homes, Health and Asthma. This report explains why homes are not always healthy, particularly for those with asthma and/or allergies. It covers gas appliances, mould and wood heater, and includes a series of policy recommendations to ensure health and climate concerns are accounted for. [Read the report.](#)

Upcoming climate-health events

Great events coming up by CAHA, members and allies. All times are in AEDT:

- [Psychology for a Safe Climate PD series](#) kicks off on Mon 13 Feb at 6.30pm, online
- [Nutrition in Healthcare Conference](#) by Doctors for Nutrition, 17-19 Feb in Melbourne
- [Saving the World webinar series by the Planetary Health Equity Hothouse](#), kicks off on Thu 23 Feb at 12.30pm, online

Sustainable Healthcare in Practice micro-credential

The Monash Sustainable Development Institute is running their short course, Sustainable Healthcare in Practice again this year! The next course begins on 14 March 2023. MSDI is offering CAHA members an exclusive 10% discount on the full cost per registration and a further group discount for three or more registrations from the same organisation. Please contact msdi.pace@monash.edu for more details and to use this generous discount.

Australia Kitchen Pollutants Study

Do you have a gas stove? Do you live in Sydney? Researchers need your help to study what is in natural gas besides methane. The Kitchen Pollutants Study aims to improve our understanding of the relationship between indoor air quality and human health and the health hazards of unburned natural gas. Participation can take as little as 20 minutes. [More info.](#)

Warning not to pick or eat wild mushrooms because of deadly deathcap mushroom risk

Food Safety Information Council

Wild mushrooms are springing up around Australia this Autumn after wet weather, so the Poisons Information Centre and the Food Safety Information Council are warning people to be extremely careful around wild mushrooms because of the deadly, deathcap mushroom poisoning risk.

Foraging for wild food is becoming a popular activity but gathering wild mushrooms can be life-threatening. The poison in one deathcap mushroom, if eaten, is enough to kill a healthy adult. In April 2022 a young child was hospitalised in the ACT after consuming a deathcap mushroom. In 2012 two people died after eating the deadly mushrooms at a New Year's Eve dinner party in Canberra and in 2014 four people also in the ACT were seriously poisoned.

Deathcap mushrooms can appear at any time of year but are more common a week or two after good rains. They have been found in the Canberra region, in and around Melbourne, in Tasmania and in Adelaide. They are not native to Australia and are often found near oak trees growing in warm wet weather. The similar native marbled deathcap mushrooms have been found in WA, although they may not be as toxic. While no cases have been reported in other States it is possible that they also grow there.

Deathcap mushrooms are difficult to distinguish from some other wild mushrooms, so we recommend you play it safe and only eat mushrooms that you have purchased from a supermarket, greengrocer or other

reputable source. People born overseas, especially in Asian countries, should be aware that these deadly mushrooms can look like edible mushrooms they may have gathered in their home countries.

The toxin in deathcap mushrooms is not destroyed by peeling, cooking or drying. Symptoms of poisoning include vomiting, diarrhoea and stomach cramps and usually appear 10 to 16 hours after eating. These symptoms may ease for 2 to 3 days before a terminal phase of 3 to 4 days begins. Without early, effective medical intervention people may go into a coma and die after 2 or 3 weeks of liver and kidney failure.

While rare, most of the deaths from mushroom poisoning in Australia result from deathcap mushrooms. However, there are other wild mushrooms in Australia that have caused fatalities or can make you seriously ill with abdominal pain, vomiting and diarrhoea. These include the Cortinarius (webcap) and Galerina species, the ghost mushroom (commonly mistaken for oyster mushrooms), and the yellow stainer which resembles a field mushroom and is the most commonly ingested poisonous mushroom in Victoria and New South Wales.

More than a third of calls to the Poisons Information Centre were about accidental exposure in children under 5 years, so remember that small children have a natural inclination to put things in their mouths so keep an eye on them when outdoors. Parents, schools and childcare workers should regularly check outdoor areas and

gardens for mushrooms and remove them to reduce the risk of accidental poisoning. This will also protect your pets.

If you suspect you may have eaten a deathcap mushroom don't wait for symptoms to occur but go to a hospital emergency department taking the mushroom with you if you can. You can also contact the Poisons Information Centre from anywhere in Australia on **13 11 26** (24 hours a day 7 days a week).

Finally, the Food Safety Information Council reminded people that mushrooms are not the only risk when foraging wild food. In December 2022 more than 190 Australians became ill after eating commercially grown spinach what had been accidentally contaminated with a weed known as thornapple (*Datura stramonium*) a type of nightshade also known as jimsonweed. This weed can easily resemble an edible green. Gathering wild food is also a risk for foodborne illness from contamination with animal faeces and parasites.



Deathcap mushroom (*Amanita phalloides*) Image used with permission Australian National Botanic Gardens

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.



January

Back to School Competition

We want to see your 'food safe' lunch boxes to start of the new year! Send in your pictures or draw us a picture of how you keep your lunches food safe in the school bag. Bonus points for creativity or inspirational ideas on how to change up the classic squashed sandwich. <https://www.eh.org.au/documents/item/1330>

Please note that this competition is only open to Australia school students aged 17 years and under. All submissions are due by 5pm (AEST) January 31st and should be sent to samantha.smith@eh.org.au

February

Exotic Mushroom capital of Australia

Adelaide (South Australia) has established the Epicurean Food Group's multi-million-dollar, vertically integrated mushroom production facility, which aims to provide more than 20,000 tons of exotic mushrooms to the consumer retail sector per annum.

#foodsafety #mushrooms #exotic #shrooms #EH



January

We're looking forward to another exciting year with you! Keep an eye on our social media channels and the EHA website - <http://www.eh.org.au> for event details, EH resources, job listings and more!

#EH #2023

February

Happy Valentines Day

Sending love to all the Environmental Health Professionals working tirelessly to keep their communities safe.

#EH #Valentines



January

Back to School Competition

Don't forget, today is the last day to send in your entries for our 'Food Safe Lunchbox' competition! Email your entries to samantha.smith@eh.org.au by 5pm (AEST) to go in the draw to win a \$50 Bunnings Warehouse voucher!

February

Happy Valentines Day

Sending love to all the Environmental Health Professionals working tirelessly to keep their communities safe.

#EH #Valentines

Arrangement between the Environmental Health Standing Committee and the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency

Australian Government - Australian Radiation Protection & Nuclear Safety Agency

The following was published on 7th February 2023 on the Australian Government Website.

Background and purpose of these Arrangements The report (2019) of the Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS) mission to Australia in 2018, coordinated by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), provided recommendations and suggestions aimed at improving consistency in Australia's radiation safety regulatory frameworks, achieving equitable radiation health outcomes across the jurisdictions of the states, territories, and the Commonwealth. The mission report commended all Australian jurisdictions for taking part in the IRRS mission, which at the time was a unique undertaking for an IAEA Member State. The IAEA noted this approach in the report as a good practice.

The parties and relevant bodies to this arrangement have agreed since the IRRS mission to prioritise promoting consistency of regulatory frameworks for radiation safety and radiation health outcomes. This document outlines revised governance arrangements designed clarify communication lines and workflow to help achieve this objective.

Building on the roles and responsibilities already given to enHealth and the CEO of ARPANSA, the parties agree that:

National Policy

- enHealth is responsible for coordinating policy advice to the Australian Health Protection Principle Committee (AHPPC), and through it to Health Ministers, and ensuring a nationally consistent approach to the implementation and compliance of radiation safety codes and standards.
- enHealth, with the support of RH ERP, will advise ARPANSA of

any policy and implementation implications that arise from changes to the Radiation Protection Series (RPS) suite of publications (produced by RHC and ARPANSA) and will promote their implementation through national adoption mechanisms under AHPPC.

- The RHC, in line with its legislative powers, is responsible for preparing draft national policies, for the consideration of the states and territories via enHealth. In doing so, RHC commits to consolidating and representing the views of each jurisdiction's RHC radiation control officers, to enable an informed decision by enHealth.

National Agreements

- As the primary forum for establishing nationally consistent policy on radiation matters, enHealth is responsible for developing and implementing the National Strategy for Radiation Safety and any subsequent national agreements.
- In line with the Governance arrangements of the National Directory for Radiation Protection (2nd Edition) (NDRP2):
 - ARPANSA will maintain and publish NDRP2.
 - enHealth will provide oversight of NDRP2 adoption, including managing any revisions through Health Ministers, and will facilitate discussions of issues related to implementation by all States and Territories.
 - ARPANSA, with advice from the RHC, provides advice to enHealth on proposed amendments to NDRP2 for its consideration.

National Codes and Standards

- ARPANSA and RHC, in maintaining the RPS, will seek the endorsement of enHealth of any proposed changes to

RPS codes, guides or standards prior to publication.

- In considering these proposed changes to RPS codes, guides or standards, enHealth will consult AHPPC and Health Ministers as it considers appropriate.
- ARPANSA with the advice of RHC will maintain and approve any relevant technical standards and advisory notes under the RPS to support national regulatory arrangements.

Correspondence and exchange of work

- With the support of the Secretariats, correspondence, or requests for advice between relevant bodies in this arrangement will normally be directed via parties to this arrangement.
- The RHC and RH ERP secretariats (in ARPANSA and the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care, respectively) will work closely together to ensure that RHC and RH ERP work plans are, where possible, complementary and avoid duplication of effort.
- ARPANSA will extend a standing invitation to the Chair of RH ERP to observe RHC meetings to provide visibility of the work of RHC.
- The CEO of ARPANSA will advise enHealth of emerging or existing radiation risks, based on national or international risk assessments or advice received from Council and RHC.
- enHealth on identification of any emerging or existing issues, can seek the advice of the CEO of ARPANSA and the RHC including in the preparation of any documents for consideration by enHealth.

Full Document can be downloaded [HERE](#)

International Federation of Environmental Health (IFEH)

Dear all,

Just a few notes on IFEH - IFEH covers Europe, Pacific, Africa and North America and the Caribbean. In total we have around 40,000 members and we are working to bring South America on board.

We have a Board of Directors (BoD) and Vic Andrich from Western Australia (former EHA WA Inc President) is the Regional Chair and also sits on the BoD. The BoD answers to IFEH Council which is when representatives from every Country get together to discuss/debate and decide on the big items and set the direction for the BoD.

IFEH Produce a Magazine (<https://www.ifeh.org/publications.html>) which is free to all via the website. We are always looking for individual or team success stories, and a couple of photos. If interested just drop the editor a note and he will guide you on the style and formatting (andrewmathieson7@hotmail.com).

We also have a media officer and a number people who upload content on Facebook etc.

I would like to extend a personal congratulations to Professor Anne Roiko from Griffith University for becoming the Chair of the IFEH Academic Faculty Forum. By holding this position, Professor Roiko has also been invited onto the IFEH BoD as an observer.

IFEH attended Cop26 in Glasgow - United Nations Climate Change Conference 2021 - A first for IFEH.

If you would like to get involved with the IFEH, please contact the Chair of the Asia Pacific Regional Group, Vic Andrich from Western Australia (vic.Andrich@eh.org.au).

EHA is a full member of IFEH, companies and institutions can become associate members of IFEH for a modest fee of \$165. If you are interested in becoming an associate member please contact me at my email below.

Kind regards,

Dr Andrew Mathieson
IFEH - Treasurer
andrew.mathieson@anu.edu.au

National Environmental Health Association (NEHA)

2023 Annual Educational Conference

Registration for the 2023 Annual Educational Conference is open!

Full Conference Registration

All full conference rates include access to the conference educational sessions. For in-person attendees, you will also receive admission tickets to the Exhibition Grand Opening and Large Networking Event.

Full Conference Rates: In-Person or Virtual Rates

Rate until April 21

Member	\$655.00
Nonmember	\$830.00
Membership Bundle*	\$755.00
Students**	\$240.00
Retiree	\$270.00

Rates after April 21

Member	\$825.00
Nonmember	\$995.00
Membership Bundle*	\$925.00
Students**	\$240.00
Retiree	\$270.00

*Bundle includes full registration, a one year membership, and will save non-member attendees \$75.00.

**Students rates include the same full conference access, plus a year member to the NEHA Emerging Professional membership. This membership allows students to continue to learn and connect after the conference is over.

Single Day Registration

Single day rates (in-person only) include access to a single day of the conference educational session

Rate until April 21

Member	\$340.00
Nonmember	\$415.00

Rates after April 21

Member	\$440.00
Nonmember	\$515.00

Group Registration for Active NEHA Members

Register multiple active NEHA members at the same time. Receive a \$50 discount on the fifth registration and every registration thereafter. All group registrations are equivalent to the full conference registration. All individuals registered under this option must be active NEHA members. Group registrations are not final until member status has been verified.

Group Rates

Rate until April 21

Register one to four members	\$655.00
Register five or more members	\$605.00

Rates after April 21

Register one to four members	\$800.00
Register five or more members	\$750.00

[Register Now](#)

National Associate Membership

Why should you consider EHA National Associate Membership for your company/organisation? As an EHA National Associate Member you have the following inclusions:

- You may use the EHA National Associate logo on your business website, documentation and promotional materials (logo usage guide provided).
- Your company logo will be added to the EHA National web page under our 'Partners' scrolling banner.
- A full page of company advertising will be made available in our regular National newsletter.
- EHA National will distribute materials for upcoming events to be conducted by Associates, through the regular communication mechanisms of National and State Associations. **EHA National and its Associations reserve the right to cease, or limit the timing and frequency of, any distribution of promotional material*
- You will have access to member rates for EHA hosted conferences and events.
- National Associate Members are entitled to use the post nominals of AEHA.
- You will be given the opportunity to advertise your company/product on the EHA YouTube channel with a 1-minute video

Please note: National Associate Membership does not imply endorsement of your products/services.

Join our other EHA National Associate Members and begin taking advantage of membership inclusions by sending an expression of interest to national@eh.org.au



Website Advertising

The EHA national website is updated regularly with environmental health job listing sent in by council and other employers around the country. To place a job advertisement on our website, please send an email to national@eh.org.au.

Our rate is \$180 + GST for the duration of the application period.

Your advertisement will be promoted across EHA social media channels including Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter.

For more information, please contact the National Executive Officer:

national@eh.org.au or 0448 606 002

Derwent Valley Council, Town of Victoria Park and Wentworth Shire Council deploy Open Office Health Manager solution.

Tasmania's Derwent Valley Council, Western Australia's Town of Victoria Park and Wentworth Shire Council in New South Wales are the latest customers to join a growing list of local governments leveraging [Open Office Health Manager](#) to underpin their environmental health activities.

Designed in collaboration with Environmental Health Officers (EHOs), and fully integrated into Council backend systems, Health Manager is the market leading solution for health management, delivering improved visibility, transparency and productivity.

High integrity management of environmental health issues, premises, equipment and licenses is a critical success factor for any organisation charged with the responsibility of enacting public health regulation.

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 the community.

Easily deployed on-premises or in the cloud, Health Manager helps EHOs better track and register all Food and Health Premises, WasteWater, Tobacco Retailers and Cooling Towers. The mobile functionality enables 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 no longer restricts EHOs to paper forms, removing duplication and reducing time in commuting to and from the office.

With intuitive design, EHOs can leverage the system to automate inspections based on assessed risk and frequency, ensuring transparency with comprehensive, real-time reporting.

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

Open Office is a wholly owned entity of ReadyTech, and was [acquired by the ASX-listed technology company in 2021](#). Open Office joins other ReadyTech acquisitions [Open Windows](#) and [IT Vision](#) to form its government segment and deliver the industry's most comprehensive enterprise SaaS offering for local government.

First for Training

By Andrew Mathieson



Dear colleague,

I just wanted to take a moment to thank you taking the time to read this update from First For Training. Please visit the web site for info on low-cost training, resources and Glow2Show products. A great new tool for EHO helping business understand training.

We are thinking of developing a mid-year food safety calendar or diary ... is this something you may be interested in?

Covid has been a difficult time for everyone in local government and especially small to medium food businesses. So, to reflect this we will continue to keep our prices for new and existing subscribers, at the existing level for at least the next year. If you would like free access to review our course or compare to others in the market, please drop me an email.

I believe FFT offers a great course, easy to navigate learning management system, responsive support and expanding range of courses, resources, and other ideas. If you have any comment constructive or other do let me know as we strive to offer a quality service for a fair price.

- We are working with EHA(NSW) and SA Health to introduce a new course entitled 'food safety for those working with vulnerable people'. We are planning to release this course mid-2023.
- We are also working with a national registered training organisation (RTO) to build our online level 2 course into a food safety supervisors' course. We hope to have this ready for release in the third quarter of 2023.
- Would you like to review any of our new courses with a view to offering it to those in your council area who would benefit from it?
- We also publish a food safety handbook which supports all level 1 courses.
- We recently launched a new hand check and surface check product (similar to other products in the market)

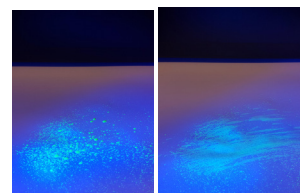
Check out Glow2Show

Glow2Show is a new range of training aids for EHOs and food business. Glow2Show is unique in that its Australian made and a great teaching aid for checking both handwashing and surface cleaning techniques. It is kid friendly and non-toxic.

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 the UV torch on 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 didn't '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 3) or contaminated droplet splash)... its visible and glows ... wipe and the visible colour disappears as it smears (photo 4) ... the surface still glows using the UV torch and now the cloth also glows showing the cross-contamination 'hazard' ... then we they wash with detergent and dry with a disposable cloth and examine under UV light the surface shows little or no glow!



Glow2Show is a great training kit for EHO and food business owners where education is a priority!

Glow2Show is non-toxic, low irritant, safe4kids, washable and classified as a toy! Careful it is dye based so wash it off properly or it may it can stain.

Glow2Show 'detective kit' was recently demonstrated to experts from the Food Safety Information Council (FSIC), they said it was innovative, and a new tool to help educate the importance of hand and surface cleaning.

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

If you have any other comments or ideas on how we can improve our training and other offering, please let me know.

Kind regards,

Andrew





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.**

National Communications Officer



samantha.smith@eh.org.au

or

national@eh.org.au



0423 437 732