

Eh News



**ENVIRONMENTAL
HEALTH
AUSTRALIA**

(South Australia) Incorporated

ABN: 54 432 916 782

May 2012

Regular Articles

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34th EHA SA State Conference Wrap-Up

The Cities of Salisbury, Playford and Tea Tree Gully successfully convened and co-hosted the 2012 Environmental Health Australia (South Australia) Inc State Conference from the 28th to the 30th of March 2012.

The conference was particularly important, for Environmental Health Officers, due to the recent proclamation of the South Australian Public Health Act which will shape the future direction of Environmental Health

in South Australia and our profession for many years to come.

The three Councils successfully collaborated and developed an important, diverse and interesting conference program which was affirmed by the high attendance of delegates from Councils across South Australia.

The conference social functions at the Watershed and Sferas on the Park provided opportunities for networking, professional recognition, collaborating and of course celebrating.

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EHA (SA) Inc. President,
Susan Bennett

EHA (South Australia) Inc. Board

Susan Bennett

President



Mina Labaz

Executive Officer



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Vice President

City of Mount Gambier



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City of Onkaparinga



Karen Rokicinski

Member

Alexandrina Council



Dale Mazzachi

Associate Member

Norman Waterhouse
Lawyers



Paul Kelly

Member

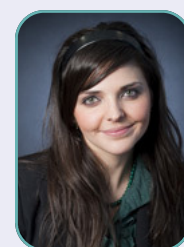
Norman Waterhouse
Lawyers



Cimon Burke

Associate Member

Wallmans Lawyers





From the Board

Dear Members

The Environmental Health Australia (SA) Board (EHA) is delighted to announce the appointment of two new Vice Presidents, Angela Sorger and Louise Jarvis. They will assist me in the role of President, help with policy and procedure development, help guide the organisation, advocate for the profession and provide sustainability and continuity. The Board thanks them for their commitment. The 2012 EHA Board consists of Susan Bennett (President), Angela Sorger (Vice President), Louise Jarvis (Vice President), Karen Rokicinski (Member), Rebekah Schubert (Member), Paul Kelly (Member), Helen Psarras (Member), Nicole Moore (Member), Sally Modystach (Member), Dale Mazzachi (Associate Member), Cimon Burke (Associate Member) and Mina Labaz (Executive Officer).

Since the last edition of EH News, we have held the extremely successful 2012 State Conference at Playford. The Councils of the Northern Alliance (Cities of Playford, Tea Tree Gully and Salisbury) lead by Amo Fioravanti, demonstrated how collaboration and working together can achieve great success. A great time was had by all at the conference dinner at Sferas On The Park and it was truly inspirational to see so many Mayors, CEOs and Managers attend not only the dinners but also during the conference. It gave them an opportunity to hear first hand exactly what EHOs do and provided them with a better understanding of up and coming issues the profession faces.

The Board will have its fourth meeting for the year this week. We have introduced teleconferencing for every second meeting so members take less time away from their desk and rural members are able to attend without too much added expense and without cutting into valuable work time.

By now you would all have heard about the Victorian division of EHA voting to separate from the national body of Environmental Health Australia. Shortly, the national office will be sending out a letter to all members outlining the situation and direction of the organisation. I too can assure you, your state board has been aware of Victoria's position for some time. We have developed a discussion paper that aims to be unbiased and provide all the facts. We have undertaken a SWOT analysis to constructively analyse the situation and options and provide guidance in the direction South Australia should take. I will deliver a [Board News](#) shortly which will outline the outcomes of the situation for you and your professional body, Environmental Health Australia.

The Board would like to thank Karin Prince for undertaking the delivery of this edition of EH News as Tina-Marie takes maternity leave. Any offers of assistance with future issues would be greatly appreciated, please contact Mina Labaz on 8271 9885 or Karin Prince on 8384 0515.

Susan Bennett

President

*"It was truly
inspirational to see so
many Mayors, CEOs
and Managers attend
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Conference Cont...

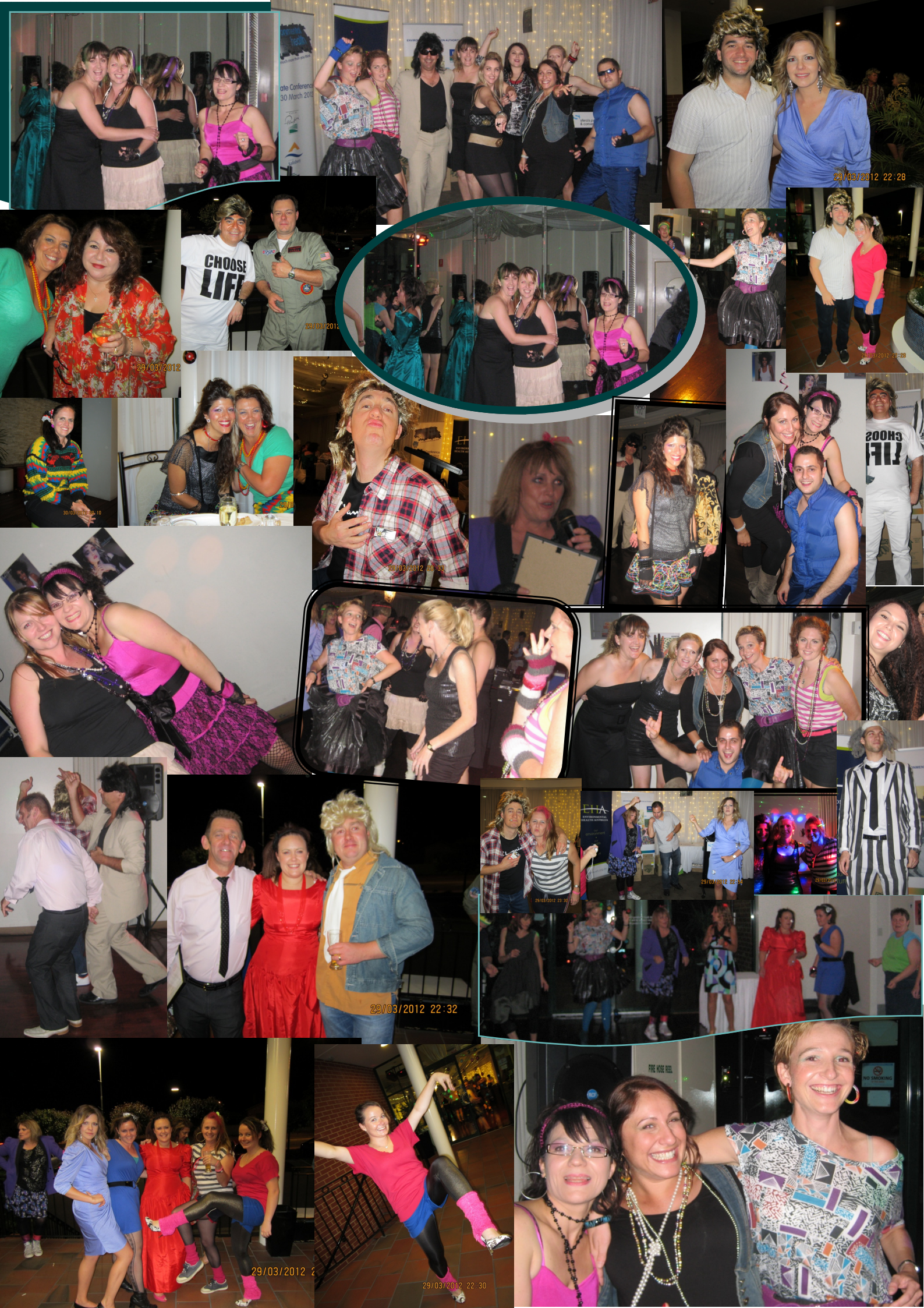
Environmental Health Australia (South Australia) Inc and the 2012 Conference Committee would like to congratulate and recognise the following award recipients:

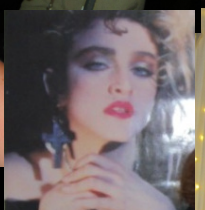
Award Winners	Award Title	Award Sponsor	Prize
Ian Gillies Barossa Council	Outstanding Mentor within the Environmental Health profession	Environmental Health Australia (South Australia) Inc	\$300
Adrian Hill City of Holdfast Bay	Excellence in Leadership	Norman Waterhouse Lawyers	\$300
Angela Sorger Alexandrina Council	Outstanding Individual Contribution to the Environmental Health profession	Wallmans Lawyers	\$300
Scott Frankham Student	Academic Student award (Student completing the third year of the course whose aggregate mark in second and third year topics is the highest.)	Flinders University of South Australia	\$200
Katina Nikas Renmark Paringa Council	Excellence in Community Focused Environmental Health Practice (shared award)	SA Health	\$100
Rebecca Burton Berri Barmera Council	“	“	\$100
Kate Knight District Council of Loxton Waikerie	“	“	\$100

The 2012 Conference Committee and Environmental Health Australia (South Australia) Inc., would like to thank Dr Stephen Christley, Mayor Gillian Aldridge, Mayor Glenn Docherty, Mayor Miriam Smith and all speakers and sponsors for their invaluable contribution to the conference.

Thank you to the 2012 conference committee:

Amo Fioravanti, Despina Skewes, Stephen Sowter, Emma Craig, James Walker, Carmel Barber & Catie McCarthy





Special Interest Groups

EHA (SA) Inc Food SIG Update

The Food SIG Meetings in Dec 2011 and March 2012 were well attended. Thank you to SA Health who hosted the December meeting at the Maylands Hotel and provided a presentation on the bakery food safety survey conducted last year. SA Health also stressed the importance of local government input into consultation on new primary production standards.

In March, the meeting was held directly after the SRF SIG. The group has discussed various issues including food business notification (participants provided input into the LGA/EHA review study), training for EHOs and food businesses and food safety at temporary events. Work Groups have been established to progress a Food Safety Training Day for mid this year and to review tools to assist with food regulation and education for temporary events. A Food SIG tour of an Adelaide Hills water bottling plant is planned for later in the year (details coming soon).

Sally Modystach



Communicable Disease Control Branch Update

Catch onto Crypto

The cryptosporidiosis surveillance story

Annika Wendland. Disease Surveillance and Investigation Section,
Communicable Disease Control Branch, Department for Health and Ageing

In February 2012, overlapping with hot weather, a significant increase in *Cryptosporidium* notifications was observed in South Australia. This prompted the Disease Surveillance and Investigation team of the Communicable Disease Control Branch (CDCB) to investigate and manage potential sources of infection threatening the community.

Cryptosporidiosis is an infection of the bowel caused by a parasite called *Cryptosporidium*. This parasite can cause watery diarrhoea in infected people, often accompanied with stomach cramps. Some people may also experience fever, vomiting and loss of appetite. In most people, symptoms typically last for one to two weeks, but in severely immune compromised people, diarrhoea can be very severe and last for a long time.

Cryptosporidium must be ingested to cause infection. Sources of infection include:

- Person-to-person transmission
- Drinking or swimming in contaminated water
- Eating uncooked food such as fruits and vegetables that have been contaminated with the parasite
- Contaminated hands, surfaces or objects.

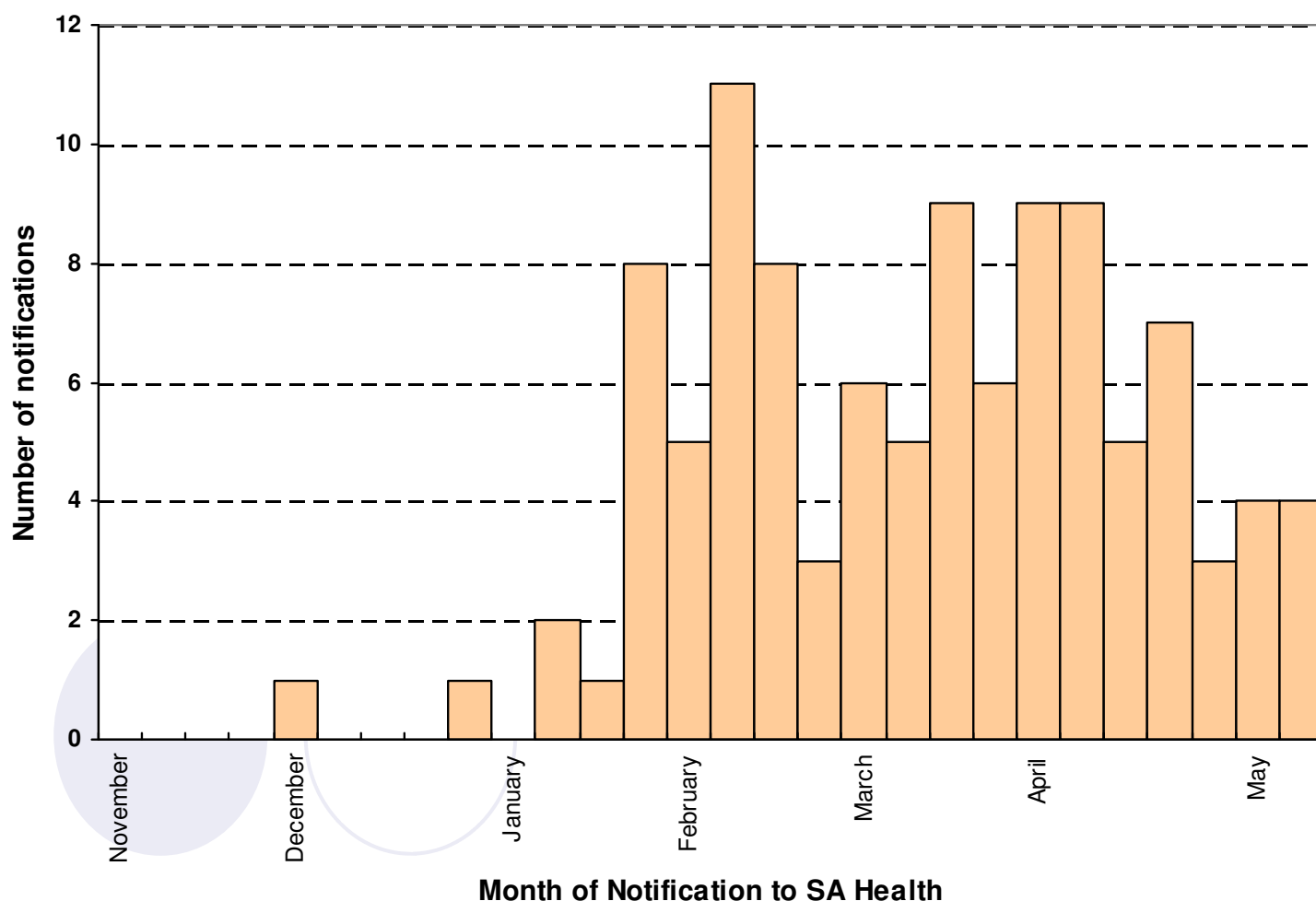
Cryptosporidiosis is a notifiable disease in South Australia, which means that when a medical officer or laboratory service makes a diagnosis, the CDCB has to be informed. On observation of an increase in cases of cryptosporidiosis, public health action was initiated. Every person newly diagnosed with the illness was interviewed to obtain information on risk exposures. There appeared to be no common risk factors besides many of the affected people (47%) swam in public swimming pools. There were some common swimming pools, however various pools were implicated.

Cryptosporidiosis is easily spread by an infected person swimming in a pool. A person who swims whilst still infectious (which they are for 14 days AFTER symptoms have stopped) can potentially contaminate the water in a pool and put other people at risk of also catching *Cryptosporidium*. Normal chlorination levels of swimming pools do not kill the parasite. *Cont...*

Cases were informed of required exclusion periods from public swimming pools and risk exposures were explained and discussed. To enable the safety of other swimmers, CDCB provided the swimming pool exposure information to the Health Protection Programs Section (HPPS) of the Department of Health. The HPPS assessed the information and guided local council Environmental Health Officers (EHOs) on the appropriate public health action. As a result of the information collected, operators of eleven public swimming facilities in South Australia were required to conduct precautionary decontaminations of one or more of their pools.

The number of cases has since reduced to expected levels, as displayed in the chart below. It is highly likely that this can be attributed to the hard work performed by EHOs as well as some cooler weather. Your ongoing contribution and commitment in helping to decrease numbers of cryptosporidiosis in the community is highly appreciated.

**Cryptosporidiosis notifications to the Communicable Disease Control Branch
from 1st November 2011 to 30th April 2012**



For a fact sheet on cryptosporidiosis, please access the following link:

<http://www.dh.sa.gov.au/pehs/ygw/cryptosporidiosis-pehs-sahealth-2009.pdf>

SA Councils Partnership with Tafe SA Regional Services to deliver Food Safety Training to Food Businesses

There is a successful food handler training partnership occurring over the regional areas of the state between local councils and TAFE Regional Services. This partnership is cost-neutral, with the responsibility in providing this training being shared between TAFE SA regional and Council's EHO's. The EHO's promote the training to the local food businesses, accommodate the sessions in council buildings and introduce the trainer and participate in the session. TAFE SA Regional Services administer the bookings, invoicing, conduct the training session and issue certificates (as applicable). The training is a recognised method for local food handlers (and business owners) to meet the 'skills and knowledge' component contained in the Food Safety Standards (without having to travel to Adelaide). The training is nationally accredited and tax deductible for food businesses. After a successful tour of the South East and Riverland areas, the program is currently operating through the mid North and Hills & Southern regions with recently participating council's including; Barossa, Adelaide Hills, Alexandrina, Mount Barker, Murray Bridge, Limestone Coast, Kangaroo Island and Yankalilla.

*Peter Morgan
The Barossa Council*

*"The training is
nationally
accredited and tax
deductible for food
businesses"*

EHA Food Skills Seminar

Please join us on 31 May 2012 for a motivating day devoted to food safety issues. Environmental Health Australia (South Australia) Incorporated has bought together a range of high quality speakers to cover such issues as thermometer calibration, what makes a food potentially hazardous, the collection of food samples, the application of the SA Health Food Business Risk Classification model, an in depth review of the *Salmonella* species, the legal requirements of EHOs, a practical example of identifying risks associated with culturally diverse foods, and a review of the AFSA process. At the end of the day there will be the opportunity to review new technologies and to network with your colleagues.

Please get in early and register before the 25th of May to save your place.

Adelaide Tattoo Show

The Professional Tattooing Association of Australia held a tattoo show in South Australia on the Saturday the 3rd and Sunday the 4th of March 2012 at the Adelaide Show Grounds. SA Health had a trade booth set up over the two days which is unprecedented indicating the strength of the relationship between SA Health and the tattooing industry in SA.

Samples of products to be given away at the show were supplied by McNeils Surgical and Health Care Shop and QV skin care range which was very popular with tattooists and the general public.

The SA Health stall was in between two tattooing stalls and therefore had a lot of foot traffic passing through. Conversations were had with the general public on what to look for when choosing a studio to do their art work, tattooists looking to open new studios, teachers asking what resources are available for high school students because students are coming to school with infected piercings and teachers are assuming backyard operators are responsible for this. Interstate and overseas artists also had stalls at the tattoo show and asked for copies of our Good Clean Art posters to display in their studios.



Jude Bail, Infection Control Nurse, was also present on the Saturday and focused her education on hand washing and using alcohol hand gels. Positive comments were received, one being “no one has ever shown me how to wash my hands before” so as simple as we think this might be it’s very important for EHOs to continue to educate the industry in this area. Safe Work SA sent a representative on the Sunday to support the stall and the event.

Positive comments were received, one being “no one has ever shown me how to wash my hands before”

Having a presence at the show each day meant it was possible to keep a close eye on the hygiene and sterilisation aspect of the event. There was a separate cleaning and sterilising area with one person being responsible for this throughout the two days, records were cited and maintained, hand washing sinks were set up for artists to use after each procedure and sharps containers were supplied to each stall by the event organisers.

SA Health’s presence at the 2012 tattoo show is a demonstration of our commitment to educating and supporting this ‘fringe’ industry. EHOs can build on this relationship and ensure that skin penetration inspections are conducted on a regular basis. SA Health will continue to support these events and have a presence where possible. It was a very successful weekend!



The Barossa Council was formed in 1996 following the amalgamation of Angaston, Barossa, Tanunda and Mount Pleasant (part of) Council's. The Barossa Council area has a population of approximately 22,000 and covers 900km². Council's principal office is located in Nuriootpa, 60 km north-east of Adelaide. The Barossa is one of Australia's prime tourism destinations: a place for premium food, wine and a beautiful natural environment. It is a great place to work and live, steeped in tradition with a vibrant lifestyle and a strong economy derived from agriculture, viticulture and manufacturing.

Council's Environmental Health Section is located within the Development and Environmental Services Department (which also includes Building, Planning, General Inspectorate, Waste Management and Natural Resource portfolios). The Council has the usual SA Environmental Health roles and responsibilities, however being predominantly an unsewered rural area there is a higher need for CWMS and waste control systems and the associated service demands. There is also a disproportionate number of high risk manufactured water systems relative to the population. In the last twelve months the popularity of farmers markets has also doubled with a corresponding increase of notified home food businesses.

Recent Environmental Health initiatives and events include:

- Participation with TAFE Regional SA to promote and host a nationally accredited food handler training program for employees and owners of local food, hospitality and catering establishments.
- Participation with Zero Waste SA to promote and facilitate a regional E-Waste drop off collection service.
- Assist in the facilitation and development of the inaugural Mt. Pleasant Farmers Market to ensure organisers and stall holders are aware of food hygiene requirements.
- Development (and implementation) of a Food Act Inspection and fee Policy.
- Development of draft Guidelines for Home Based Food Businesses.
- Review of Environmental Health information on Council website.



(left to right) Ian Baldwin – Director Development & Environmental Services, Steve Carroll - Senior EHO, Karen Bandt – EHO, Peter Morgan – Manager Building & Health Services and Ian Gillies – EHO.

Peter Morgan

Position: Manager Building & Health Services (lucky to be part of a great team).

How long have you been in the Environmental Health Field? Twenty four years.

How long at Barossa? Nearly three years.

Where were you born? in a hospital! (Croydon, England)

What is your favourite food and drink? Definitely a roast dinner or a good lamb curry! A good red or a real ale.

What are your hobbies? Raising a family didn't leave much time for that but home renovating or gardening (were hobbies by necessity) but definitely motorcycling, fishing or reading are my preferences (I certainly need more practice at fishing!).

Favourite sport to watch? AFL (are there others?)

Favourite movie? Hmm several depending on mood; Gladiator, All Quiet on the Western Front, Transporter, The Notebook.

Favourite TV program? Grand Design, Laid, Silk, AFL telecast (Crows), comedy festivals.

Most recently read book? Several - but 'Somme Mud' (EF Lynch) is a keeper.

Favourite music/band? Hmm probably Santana or Radio Head but I like Spanish, classical or chill out music depending on the mood.

Favourite way to relax? Reading, motorcycling, walking, movies, dinner with friends, more time in bed!

Favourite holiday destination? FNQ (but also looking at NT and Tasmania).

Best work achievement? In terms of a single achievement I think that's for others to judge, but in the last decade I have enjoyed the team challenges and achievements at both the Adelaide Hills and Barossa Councils. Surviving the constant change in two disciplines is certainly up there!

Best personal achievement? Raising four great kids!

What would you do if you won a million dollars? So you've got my winning ticket?...treat the kids and a cancer research charity then take a real holiday and consider early retirement.

Ian Gillies

Position: Environmental Health Officer/ Senior Assistant Building Surveyor

How long have you been in the Environmental Health Field? 41 Years

How long at Barossa? 23 Years

Where were you born? Scotland

What is your favourite food and drink? Italian food & single malt scotch whiskey

What are your hobbies? Old cars

Favourite sport to watch? Motor racing

Favourite movie? Jason Bourne series

Favourite TV program? NCIS

Most recently read book? The Templars Code

Favourite music/band? Eagles

Favourite way to relax? A glass of wine or spirits watching the sunset

Favourite holiday destination? Europe/UK

Best work achievement? Assisting in the removal of wine dams from the Nuriootpa and Tanunda townships.

Best personal achievement? Being respected by my peers and the community.

What would you do if you won a million dollars? Pretty much the same as now except I'd travel more.

Steve Carroll

Position: Senior Environmental Health Officer

How long have you been in the Environmental Health Field? 27yrs

How long at Barossa? 6 months

Where were you born? Adelaide

What is your favourite food and drink? Indian food and Coopers Sparkling Ale and/or a heavy red.

What are your hobbies? Playing music and squash

Favourite sport to watch? AFL, cricket and drag racing

Favourite movie? The Thing

Favourite TV program? Anything that makes me laugh, Stupid, Stupid Man, Housos.

Most recently read book? Barry Sheene 1950-2003: The Biography. Slash Autobiography.

Favourite music/band? Any music with lots of loud guitars, Porcupine Tree, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Led Zeppelin, Metallica.

Favourite way to relax? Dining out with friends, reading, watching a good movie.

Favourite holiday destination? Flinders Ranges, Darwin, Northern Territory.

Best work achievement? Dealing with constant and significant change in the profession over the last fifteen years and coming out a wiser man!

Best personal achievement? Paying off all my debts before I reached 40.

What would you do if you won a million dollars? Buy another house, upgrade my musical gear, retire & graciously disappear.

Karen Bandt

Position: Environmental Health Officer

How long have you been in the Environmental Health Field? 2 years

How long at Barossa? 2 years

Where were you born? Modbury, Adelaide

What is your favourite food and drink? Gnocchi, Mexican food, chocolate!!! Anything sweet and fruity =)

What are your hobbies? Reading (when time permits), attempting to cook.

Favourite sport to watch? Not a huge sports fan but don't mind watching the soccer or tennis.

Favourite movie? The Pursuit of Happiness, The Sweetest Thing, Taken.

Favourite TV program? At the moment, Big Bang Theory

Most recently read book? It's been so long, I can't recall the title!

Favourite music/band? Dance, RnB & Pop

Favourite way to relax? Shopping, reading, therapeutic cleaning.

Favourite holiday destination? Yet to be determined. There are so many places I have yet to see!

Best work achievement? Being in the field for 2 years and learning the ropes.

Best personal achievement? Completing university and joining the working world.

What would you do if you won a million dollars? Purchase myself my first home, make life for the rest of my family very comfortable, invest and donate towards charity.

Ian Baldwin

Position: Director, Development & Environmental Services

How long have you been in the Environmental Health Field? 37years

How long at Barossa? Two stints – 26 years

Where were you born? Adelaide

What is your favourite food and drink? Steak and Red Wine (from the Barossa)

What are your hobbies? Playing golf, bike riding, music & photography

Favourite sport to watch? Australian Rules Football (closely followed by synchronized swimming!)

Favourite movie? African Queen (Golden Oldie)

Favourite TV program? Comedy Club Festival

Most recently read book? 4WD - SA

Favourite music/band? Van Morrison

Favourite way to relax? Playing golf well

Favourite holiday destination? Canada

Best work achievement? Building a good team of people for the Department

Best personal achievement? Hole in One (& married with two children)

What would you do if you won a million dollars? Invest wisely.

Members' Section



“Rural City of Murray Bridge EHO
Jeremy Byrnes married Kalarie on
14 April 2012 at Woodside Lutheran
Church, AND partied hard afterward at
the SA Wine Centre followed by much
rest and recuperation at Port Douglas...
Now, get back to work! ☺”

Phil Eckert



Farewell Sarah Mitchell

After 7 years at the City of
Onkaparinga & previous
EHA member, we wish
Sarah & her family all the
best in their move to
Qld..the Sunshine State!

“After many years “down South”, Steve Carroll has moved from City of Onkaparinga and is now working with the team at The Barossa Council. A colleague informs us that Steve is a welcome and valued member of the Development & Environmental Services Department at the Barossa and is enjoying the new environment”.

*Peter Morgan
The Barossa Council*



Environmental Health Australia (EHA) is the peak national organisation in Australia which advocates environmental health issues and represents the professional interests of environmental health practitioners. EHA is committed to the professional development and status of its members and the enhancement of environmental health standards and services to the community through advocacy, promotion, education and leadership.



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Membership Renewal

Your contribution to Environmental Health Australia is highly valued.

As a professional association we are able to pool experience and opinion to enhance our skills, provide a point of contact to SA Health, LGA and others and effectively lobby for and manage change that effects us.

At a very practical level, EHA (South Australia) Incorporated organises training and development opportunities each year including our State conference, workshops and SIGs and has invested extensively in the development of the knowledge base for Environmental Health Practitioners.

However, we are a small organisation run almost exclusively by volunteers willing to invest time and expertise for the benefit of all. To be sustainable we must maintain our network of assistance and support, continue to respond as a profession and renew our membership each year.

Please respond promptly to your membership renewal notice and encourage your colleagues to become members too - Imagine working as an EHO without us!

New membership enquiries should be directed to Mina Labaz,
Tel/Fax 08 8271 9885, Email mina.labaz@eh.org.au

Thank you

Susan Bennett

President, Environmental Health Australia (SA) Incorporated

The **EhNews** Newsletter is
endorsed by Environmental Health
Australia (SA) Incorporated

Any recommendations for the
newsletter content, suggestions or
questions about the newsletter and
if you would like to become an
editor, please contact the editorial
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Tina-Marie Aghiana
(Maternity Leave)

We hope you have enjoyed this
edition of **EhNews**