



(South Australia) Incorporated

BOARD NEWS

May 2013 Edition 7

Dear Members

Welcome to the seventh edition of ***BOARD NEWS***, an Environmental Health Australia (EHA) South Australia (SA) Inc. initiative aimed to keep members informed.

This is our first edition of Board News for 2013 and my first edition as new president.

I hope to keep you up to date as well as our previous president, Susan Bennett.

While we aim to keep you informed through other means such as SIGs and EH News, Environmental Health Australia SA Inc provide you with this edition.

Since our last ***BOARD NEWS*** tasks have progressed both nationally, and locally.

On a State Level

This year the board has been busy developing and updating policy and procedures in line with the national office of EHA. Time has been spent reviewing and developing the roles and responsibilities as well as a communication policy document for board members and SIG conveners and secretaries. These policies will help to establish better practices and procedures for the Board and SIG conveners and secretaries which will ultimately benefit members.

Special Interest Groups have been delivering interesting and informative sessions across the areas of Food, Disease, Supported Residential Facilities and Wastewater to members.

The Disease SIG provided a submission on the State Public Health Plan on behalf of EHA SA Inc. I would like to thank the conveners and secretaries for their hard work given the short timeframe they had to work with.

The Wastewater SIG has struggled to get going following the secretary's departure, fortunately Eddie Richter & Tony Pearson have taken up the positions of co conveners of this SIG which was quite timely given the new wastewater code that has been released. Look out for some training sessions being developed from this SIG and lots of questions being raised by members, me included!

The food SIG and SRF SIG continue to provide informative sessions with interesting speakers and events. I especially would like to congratulate the SIG conveners and secretaries for delivering informative sessions.

The State Conference was held on the 11th & 12th April 2013 and was an outstanding and very informative conference. The organising committee guided by Helen Psarras, in combination with Danny Broderick from the Department of Health developed a conference with a difference. The first day was devoted to the South Australian Public Health Act and planning. It also was an opportunity for Environmental Health SA to collaborate and partner with other organizations such as PIA, LGA and PHA which we hope will continue into the future. The second day was much more an Environmental Health focus day and the presenters brought their A game and provided us with useful information.

Last year Environmental Health Australia SA Inc. was successful in receiving a \$22,000 grant to develop an Environmental Health awareness and information resource. Environmental Health Australia SA Inc undertook a request for quotes, and engaged the services of Healthy Environs to undertake this project. A steering committee has been formed to guide this project and to capture what we hope will be a useful resource that can be utilised by Environmental Health professionals. The project is being coordinated by Kirstin Ross from Flinders University with input from metropolitan and rural councils and the LGA.

EHA SA Inc. have also be concentrating on bringing to its members a training schedule which, once in full motion, will provide several free training & information sessions to its members. Apart from free training there will be more complex training sessions over a longer timeframe that will incorporate a fee - so watch this space.

Our Website is still being developed and is accessible www.eh.org.au, National office has informed us that SA members will be the first to be provided with log on's, hopefully not in the too distant future! Through the website, members will be able to gain access to member only information and online payments. Please visit our website Calendar, which will be regularly updated with up coming training, events etc.

[On a National Level](#)

The national board has been endeavouring to bring to its members a functioning website available to all states. There have been obstacles in setting up this website. The payment gateway component was the major obstacle. The requirement was for all states to have their

own payment gateway as this would allow for better management of finances and member activity at a state level. Obviously all states had to agree to finance a small portion to implement the gateway and amend the service agreement with the website developer so this could progress.

As a result of state government cut backs the national board have experienced a couple of resignations, as all positions on state and national boards are voluntary and require board members to deliver projects on their own time.

The major projects that the national board are currently working on are as follows:

- Re-establishing an electronic peer reviewed journal. This would be available or associated with university libraries as well as Google scholar.
- Enhancing the environmental health profession by developing electronic professional development and certification/accreditation schemes (CPD, CEHP) for environmental health professionals.
- Redevelopment and review of emergency management course for use by all associations
- Development of NSW food school course content to be made available to all associations
- EHA Victoria memberships
- Finalise policies, by laws and establish a template to assist state associations business plans.

The 38th National Conference is approaching and is being held in Perth 24th -26th September 2013

We seek assistance with:

- Committee required for the 2014 National Conference, to be held in Adelaide;
- Coordinating training within SIGS
- Arranging Member networking opportunities or get togethers.
- Assistance or ideas with all aspects of EHA, such as ideas for training - your opinion is valued

From time to time there are things that need to be done in order to either keep our house in order and/or to move forward. Many hands make light work and your help and contribution to making things happen is valued and appreciated. Please contact myself (on 8555 7206), Louise Jarvis (on 8555 7039) or Mina Labaz (on 8271 9885) if you are able to contribute your time. We will list areas we need assistance with in each edition of ***BOARD NEWS.***

Angela Sorger President EHA SA Inc. **on behalf of the board.**