NEWSLETTER OF THE AUSTRALASIAN SOCIETY FOR ECOTOXICOLOGY (now SETAC-AU)

Endpoint

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SETAC Australasia

Message from the Editor

Welcome to the first issue of *Endpoint* with your new editorial team. Before I say too much I would like to acknowledge the great assistance I have received from my editorial assistant; Erik Prochazka. It might sound like a cliché but I really could not have pulled this together so quickly without Erik's help (particularly his skills with Microsoft Publisher).

You will no doubt see some changes over the coming issues regarding the content of *Endpoint* as Erik and I forge a future for our newsletter. If anyone has any suggestions about how *Endpoint* could be improved please don't hesitate to drop me a line or send me an email.

Can I also remind everyone that you, the members, are extremely important to the continuation and content of *Endpoint*. We are always keen to get material which is relevant to our society. Contributors also get the benefit of being noticed and raising their profile and that of their organisation in the Australasian Ecotox community. Look for an article in an upcoming issue of *Endpoint* for how you and your organisation can benefit from contributing to *Endpoint*.

Once again much of the content of this issue of *Endpoint* necessarily focuses on the transition of our Society to SETAC. In particular you will see some very important articles on:

- Ensuring your membership details are up to date (see article on page 23).
- The transition of our journal from the *Australasian Journal of Ecotoxicology* (AJE) to the *Australasian Bulletin of Ecotoxicology and Environmental Chemistry* (ABEEC) (see article on page 22).

Of course this is also the first issue since the passing of Tony Roach. Many members remember Tony very fondly as a colleague and friend and a number of members have worked together to write a eulogy to a person who will be greatly missed in the Australian Ecotox community. Please read this article beginning on page 4 and remember the legacy that Tony has left behind.

Finally, on a happier note, Rick van Dam, Andrew Harford and Alicia Hogan have prepared a great overview of Envirotox 2011 for those who could not make it. I was fortunate enough to be at Envirotox 2011 and can verify that it was a very successful conference on many levels. I won't say more than that as Rick, Andrew and Alicia have covered the conference very well in their report.

David Everett
Editor-in-Chief
June 2011

Sustaining Members

NSW Office of Environment and Heritage
http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au

Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities
http://www.environment.gov.au

Hydrobiology
http://www.hydrobiology.biz

Ecotox Services Australasia
http://www.ecotox.com.au

Advanced Analytical Australia
http://www.advancedanalytical.com.au

From El Presidente - April 2011

Welcome to my last report as President of ASE/SETAC-AU. It has been an honour to hold this role on behalf of the members and for as long as I have. In that time we – you the members, the Council and I - have managed to reverse a decline in membership, increased the voice of ASE/SETAC-AU in some key areas of importance to ecotoxicology, and successfully managed the merger of the society with the global SETAC community. A momentous period indeed.

It is perhaps appropriate that I was elected as President at the last joint conference with RACI in Perth at Interact in September 2006 and now stepping down at Envirotox, again a joint conference with RACI. It does seem like a long period in between when you look back on it like that, but it didn't seem so at the time.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you, the members, and the Council representatives for the support and tolerance you have given me over that time, and to wish my replacement all the best. I will still have a role on Council as immediate past president, and also now have a role on the Board of SETAC-AP, so it does not really mean a lessening of my commitment to things SETAC does in this region.

SETAC-AU and FASTS

FASTS has been working on rebranding (announcement to come on that soon) and improving its profile. There has been some increased media coverage for the organisation of late, but also some characterisation of it as a relatively quiet lobby group according to at least one press reporter! There will be some fairly substantial initiatives to be announced later in the year, including the development of a State of the Science Report. Of particular note is that Science Meets Parliament is currently being held in Canberra. Also, this year there will be a new forum, Science Meets Policy Makers, which will also be worth contemplating to nominate as the society representative. This event is to be held in October this year.

SETAC-AU and ACTRA

I have done nothing to follow up on ACTRA for this AGM, in the knowledge that Jack Ng is in attendance at the conference and can be consulted directly if you wish to know more about happenings within ACTRA.

Online Subscriptions and Website

The web page went down for a while when the Hydrobiology office was flooded in January. The server was taken to safety, so was not damaged, but it took a while to get it back on the Internet. It is live now and Fred is working on transition to a SETAC hosted version.

Other Matters

The Water Quality Guidelines revision is proceeding. Updates will be provided as part of this conference. You can find also find details on the EPHC website (http://www.ephc.gov.au/taxonomy/term/102).

My contributions to the revision of the National Code for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes have largely finished. I was on the group revising Section 1 – "General principles for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes". I learnt a lot about how the code writing groups think and operate, and although initially I think I was regarded as a bit of an interloper, by the end I felt that there was recognition that my viewpoint was useful and certainly that it was good to have someone to remind the group that the definition of Animal included things without fur or feathers. Anyway, I did what I could to ensure that the science of ecotoxicology was not overlooked when outlining the general principles of the use of animals for scientific purposes. However, there was considerable editing of the code writing groups' submissions to compile the current draft, and not all components of the intent of the submissions have remained in place. Expect some further rounds of comment and editing to come – at least I hope so.

So, a short report, which is appropriate given the other reports and issues to discuss here, not least of which will be the election of new Council representatives. I wish them and you all the best.

Ross Smith

Tony Roach Eulogy

Vale Tony Roach – 14th June 1962 to 5th May 2011

On 5th May 2011, Dr Tony Roach collapsed suddenly during a meeting at work and, despite being attended to by skilled resuscitators, he passed away the same day. Tony was a Senior Environmental Scientist in the Ecotoxicology & Environmental Contaminants Section of the Office of Environment & Heritage (OEH; formerly DECCW). Tony was held in high esteem by his work colleagues in OEH and by many scientists in Australia and overseas with whom he collaborated. A service was held for Tony on 16th May at The Armoury, part of Sydney Harbour National Park, with a sparkling view over the harbour that he worked in and loved. The service was attended by over 300 family and friends, who came from just about every state in Australia. And there were many more that couldn't come.

Tony Roach completed his undergraduate degree at UNSW in 1984 with a Bachelor of Applied Science in Environmental Biology. After some consultancy work, he joined the State Pollution Control Commission (as OEH was known then) for 6 months from August 1985, to do a variety of environmental assessment projects in Botany Bay and Port Kembla.

In March 1986 he took up a Technical Officer position with NSW Fisheries at Cronulla. There he worked on a number of fisheries and environmental projects in the Hawkesbury River, Jervis Bay and the Clarence River.

From May 1990 he returned to the SPCC, where he remained (through 5 departmental name changes) to develop his marine biology skills with particular expertise in:

- the impacts of pollutants on marine and estuarine organisms;
- the biological effects of contaminants in sediments;
- Ocean disposal of dredge spoil;
- bioaccumulation of contaminants; and
- ecological effects of ocean outfalls.

During his time in the EPA, as we were then, he undertook a part-time PhD at UTS, supervised by Dr Richard Lim, on population ecology of estuarine snails at Towra Point which he completed in 1996. He then was an environmental Scientist at EPO 9 level, and I was privileged to have him as a valuable member of my Section since 2003, although I knew him well before that.

More recently, Tony built on this background to develop his research niche, for which he was known internationally, in:

- how the animals living in estuaries interacted with contaminants in sediments and food;
- environmental statistics for field work;
- effects of the metalloid, selenium, which is a micropollutant from power stations;
- effects of tributyl tin antifouling paints;
- dioxins in Sydney Harbour;
- emerging contaminants such as brominated flame retardants and perfluorinated compounds;
- biomarkers that measure an organism's health and contaminant interactions in food webs. Areas that he had an expertise in throughout Australia and overseas.

Tony applied his research and accumulated knowledge to assist OEH to tackle contamination issues. Often Tony would commandeer the meeting room at the Lidcombe labs with papers spread from one end of the long table to the other as he grappled with a contaminant issue for our Regulation Division.

Only last year, he applied for and was awarded Senior Research Scientist grading – long overdue, but that was only because he didn't like filling in the paperwork. He certainly had no trouble impressing the interview committee last August!

The above summary of his resumé doesn't do justice to the real Tony Roach as we, his work colleagues and collaborators, knew him.

I can echo the words emailed or said to me in the lead up to his service – such as:

- "*Tony has made an extraordinary contribution*";
- "*an excellent scientist*";
- "*enthusiastic*";
- "*passionate about his science*";
- "*diversity of skills*";
- "*visionary*"; and
- from the USA, "*I was struck by how excited he was about his research and eager to create new opportunities to address environmental problems*".

As his immediate supervisor, I found it difficult to encourage him to take leave, such was his enthusiasm for his work.

Tony also enjoyed life, as seen by the following words:

- "*a fun person to be around*";
- "*good for a laugh*";
- "*an extremely funny, smart and engaging individual, who everyone wanted to be around*";
- "*many laughs and Tony was the 'life' of the meeting*";
- "*You would never get off the phone frustrated – it would always end with a laugh.*"

And from Mark from OEH Hunter Office: "*he was the best of us, always great to work with and passionate and a good mate*".

To some, Tony could present a somewhat fearsome persona. Moreno Julli from the Lidcombe Lab reported this exchange of conversation when an OEH Regional Officer who shall remain nameless rang him to ask if Tony was in:

- "*Yes he is in his office*" Moreno said
- "*I was afraid he might be - I was putting off calling because I know he won't be impressed by this harbour dredging proposal I have to talk to him about.*"
- After some encouragement the officer plucked up the courage to be transferred to Tony, signing off by saying "*If the air turns blue in the next few minutes you'll know why*".
- Some muffled blueness did indeed come through Tony's door – aimed at protecting the environment.
- Tony never left you wondering what he thought!

Mark again recalls an incident where a pesticide spill caused a fish kill. Tony saw the value of taking fresh fish samples for residue analysis, so he rang Mark to ask for "*An eel, not quite dead*". Mark delivered an esky containing an eel to Tony at Lidcombe and returned to the spill site. Shortly after he got a call from Tony, which comprised a few words not suitable for general consumption but something like "*You and I need to have a serious discussion on what almost dead mean, its out of the esky and its not almost dead, its not even a little bit dead, It's what I would say is very much alive! I don't suppose you could have grabbed a smaller one either?*"

Tony was a mentor to his students. Jochen from Queensland writes: "*He was awesome in supporting students and for ideas that were only just forming. A range of my PhD students and postdocs are in debt to him and his generosity and drive*".

Tony's students thought he was a "great supervisor" but I suspect that he may have worked his students and research assistants hard, because they were often late in the lab – but then, so was he. In fact, I am sure that they were inspired by his infectious enthusiasm.

Anthony Chariton, now with CSIRO, gives some insight to field trips with Tony: "*Tony was always 'Captain' of the field trips. He would take command …. and always insisted on driving the boat ….. On one occasion in Lake Macquarie, he was the 'captain' of the new [Departmental] speedboat showcasing its cutting-edge 4 stroke engine. Within the first hour he had clogged the engine's intake with seaweed, causing [it] to over heat. Consequently, I had to tow him back to shore with my 15 horse power aluminium punt. The boat was fine; however, his pride was a little dented*."

Mark again recalls being in a boat with Tony on a north coast river where they were investigating the impacts of highly toxic tributyl tin from illegal dumping of grit blast material. Mark was driving the boat and Tony was up the front guiding him to a ledge ready to alight. Mark could see a great rock covered with oysters, so he stopped just off the bank. Tony said, "*why are you stopping? I'm not getting off here it's too deep*". Mark replied "*the rock in front of us?*" Tony said, "*No you will be right, just follow my signals*" - so he signals forward and left, and the boat hits the rock. Tony says "*Well you're the skipper, you really should avoid rocks in boats*".

Tony made a name for himself when the issue hit the fan on dioxins in fish and prawns in Sydney Harbour in 2005 and 2006, and he rose to the frenetic challenge. I remember him leaving the Lidcombe lab with a load of processed mullet samples for chemical analysis at Pymble, then ringing within half an hour to say "*Fisheries just rang to say that mullet's off the menu – the Minister now wants kingfish analysed*". Tony returned to load the kingfish.

Tony could see huge potential in all the fish samples taken from the Harbour, way beyond just measurement of dioxins:

- to better understand how contaminants and aquatic organisms interact in estuaries;
- to grasp the emerging threat posed by the expanding range of chemicals that are being found in the environment;
- understanding the ecology of fish in the Harbour;
- adding value with biomarkers to gauge fish health; and
- extending the work to develop non-destructive testing for contaminants using bird feathers or eggs.

As a result of this work, Tony was a regular participant at the annual international dioxin conferences – largely paid for by his grant money. At those and all other conferences, Tony showed an amazing networking ability – such that he managed to get free or very cheap analyses for dioxins, flame retardants or perfluorinated compounds. He made lots of friends along the way, including: such eminent scientists as Prof Walter Vetter from Hohenheim, Germany;

Prof Sue Jobling from Brunel in London; Adrian Covaci from Antwerp, Belgium; Robin Stewart from US Geological Survey; Rob Letcher from Environment Canada; and many others.

Jochen Mueller from Queensland writes: "*He came onto the Persistent Organic Pollutants scene relatively late – and I thought I better introduce him into the scene at Dioxin conferences. Of course – with Tony that was not really necessary. He was perfectly capable to introduce himself. I think Tony had a ball at these meetings…. He completely understood why these meetings are so good – they cover so many different disciplines and this makes it easy to find people you can work with and do the part that you cannot do – often for free or cheaply. Tony developed collaborations around the globe*.".

Jochen continues: "*In Tokyo he and my PhD students seemed to not need much sleep. At the time I was looking for a postdoc and one morning at 3 - I was deep asleep – I hear Tony … and the others come into the room that I shared with one of them – screaming – JOCHEN – WE HAVE FOUND A POSTDOC FOR YOU!!!*"

Robin Stewart from US Geological Survey writes of an incident at an international Pellston workshop in Florida on selenium: "*Tony was an extremely rare individual in science because he never felt he had to prove his worth to anyone, and actually spent more time helping others relax and stop trying to prove they were smart. This was a valuable skill. One of my funniest memories was during a large group session … when everyone was being particularly serious Tony's cell phone all of a sudden went off. On it came in a very loud clear Aussie voice "You have a message". There was dead silence, until Tony looked around at everyone staring at him and said in a very loud clear voice, "well, I think I have a message". The room cracked up and people relaxed. I continue to be stuck in meetings where I only wish that Tony was there both for his brains and his ability to get people to relax*."

At work, Tony made his presence felt at the Lidcombe labs. He never partook of any coffee, cakes or sweets – instead sticking to his seeds, nuts and green Korean tea with rice. However, he always joined us in the tea room, enlivening the conversation with his booming voice, hearty laugh and passionate and incisive commentary on social, political and scientific issues. The Lidcombe labs will seem empty without Tony.

Tony seemed to be a morning person – often one of the first at Lidcombe. At the recent SETAC conference dinner, he was presented with a "*Diurnal mismatch*" award because he arrived for a meeting of regulators and scientists at 7 AM on Monday, instead of the scheduled time of 7 PM. His last work photo was of him receiving that award.

Tony would often go for brisk bike rides at lunchtime, accompanied by his iPod. In October 2009, he removed the speakers from his ears to greet a passing cyclist, they tangled in his front wheel, and he ended up over the handlebars with two broken wrists. That didn't stop him for long, but he wouldn't ask for help – even with the most difficult task of pulling a door open.

The Office of Environment & Heritage has worked with Sydney Institute of Marine Science to establish a Prize in Tony's name associated with student projects on the health of Sydney Harbour.

Outside of work, Tony set up a website hosting service, was very savvy technologically and was an accomplished photographer; some of his collection can be viewed at http://www.anthonyroach.com.au/artimages/.

Robin Stewart, of the USGS echoes how Tony's scientific colleagues feel: "*Tony was a very special person and the world will feel his loss deeply.*"

Tony left behind his wife of 19 years, Ann Buchner, and three daughters aged 9 to 14, Perri, Inez and Sylvie. All of Tony's work colleagues, both at the OEH and across the scientific community, pass on condolences to Ann and all of Tony's family and close friends.

Hi all,

After a quick and well deserved break following the What's in Our Water meeting, one collective blink and we find ourselves in the middle of another year, stretching that extra bit to again meet those end of financial year project commitments. While it has been a full year, it has fortunately been fruitful. A number of our group attended the inaugural SETAC Australasia meeting in April which, by all accounts, was very successful. I might just be speaking for myself but I think it's very exciting that environmental chemists now have a local platform for their work and have an excuse to talk ecotox while they are at it. Anu left for the conference and returned with Chris Green (Brunel University), whose post graduate research in modelling levels of EDCs in UK rivers has tied in very nicely with her work. While Anu is a generous host, it didn't stop her handing Chris a bucket and spade to help with our field sampling and to his credit he cheerfully bush-bashed in the rain.

It seems conferences in Australia produce their own gravity as we will be receiving a number of other visitors following the upcoming Micropol conference in Sydney. Justin Jasper (UC Berkeley) will be bringing his skills in wetland processes that influence contaminant degradation to our lab and will be hopefully passing on a number of pointers for photolysis and biodegradation studies for the few weeks he is in Adelaide. Also, Alistair Boxall (University of York) will be gracing us with his presence for a number of months and his deep knowledge of fate processes of organic contaminants in the environment and modelling techniques will no doubt be eagerly probed. As a bonus, Alistair will be bringing two postgrads, Maja Karlsson and Laura Carter, along with him for some of his time here. Maja will be assessing uptake of a number of pharmaceuticals in *Lumbriculus* and yabbies to try and wrap up her studies; Laura will be delving into the terrestrial environment and looking at uptake of pharmaceuticals in plants. We are certainly looking forward to another productive six months (or collective blink, if you like) of work here.

Speaking of students, Casey Doolette (University of Adelaide) has recently started as a postgraduate with Mike McLaughlin's group. So far, Mike's group has been investigating the fate, transport and toxicity of manufactured metal nanoparticles in soil systems. Casey will continue the focus on interactions between nanoparticles and soil components and the subsequent effect on their partitioning in soils. Her project will aim to characterise manufactured nanoparticles in biosolids, thus determining their form when applied to soils. The information gained from this project will enable a more accurate risk assessment of manufactured metal nanoparticles in terrestrial systems. So keep an eye out for Casey in the future as she applies big ideas to really, really small things.

Mike Williams

University of Canberra Ecochemistry Research Activity Report

2010 - 2011

Infrastructure

The Ecochemistry laboratory has received over $1 million to set up two new facilities here at UC and the ANU from grants from the ARC, UC, IAE and ANU MEC. The first new facility is a joint facility between the UC and ANU comprising a high resolution inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometer that will allow the accurate measurements of elements and their isotopes especially those of biological importance such as phosphorus and sulphur, as well as a multi collector inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometer that measures with high accuracy isotope abundance for elements of use in reconstructing past climatic conditions. These new instruments complement the current capacities of the laboratories other ICP-MS and ICP-DRC-MS that can be used for the measurement of elemental composition and when coupled with high performance liquid chromatography can determine element speciation in biological material, waters and sediments. This equipment along with the other atomic spectroscopy techniques available within the Ecochemistry Laboratory supports both teaching and research.

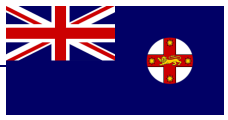
The second new facility is a membrane inlet mass spectrometer purchased through an equipment grant from the IAE and funding from NSW DECC which will extend the laboratory's capacity to measure nutrient cycles in aquatic environments by performing measurements such as nitrogen gas fluxes and oxygen isotopes. This equipment compliments our current instrumentation including our dissolved organic carbon analyzer, organic carbon analyzer, and flow injection analyzer and provides in the ability to measure atmospheric fluxes of nutrients in the environment.

Education

The Ecochemistry group has been participating for several years in the work placement program for students from many of Frances' chemical and environmental engineering schools. We have hosted over 12 students in the laboratory working on current research projects. These students typically stay in the lab for a period of three months and work independently on projects under the supervision of the Ecochemistry research staff. In 2010 we hosted 5 French intern students, who worked on projects on arsenic uptake and cycling in marine organisms and plants as well as a variety of analytical techniques.

Research

- Response of Bivalves to Metal Contamination in Lake Macquarie NSW
- The influence of Benthic Microalgae on Nutrient Cycling in NSW Estuaries
- Ecological Risk Assessment of Sediments: How to weight the lines of evidence
- Speciation Analysis of Mercury in Environmental Matrices
- Selenium Cycling in Estuarine Ecosystems
- Selenium metabolism in plants and human health food supplements
- The sub lethal effects of insect juvenile hormone mimic pesticides on honey bees
- Arsenic cycling in Marine Phytoplankton and Bacteria



Update from Amanda Reichelt-Brushett at Southern Cross University

Another semester over at SCU and our undergraduate students just got their first 'dose' of ecotoxicology experience. For about 7 years we have been introducing students to basic ecotoxicology in the unit Environmental Chemistry (second year). The students set up and monitor the effects of copper on the shrimp *Caridinia sp*. using a static test design. With so many hands on deck we actually explore the respective toxicity of copper dosed pond water compared with copper dosed rain water. This exercise really helps to tease out concepts of speciation and complexation. It was a good semester and a keen group of students. Now back to the marking!

On another note PhD student Pelli Howe has a laboratory culture of the tropical anemone *Aiptaisa pulchella* and has been investigating metal toxicity and lethality. She is now embarking on developing some sub-lethal test methods and will be working with Rick Krassoi (Ecotox Services) to investigate species sensitivity to whole effluents and compare relative sensitivities between various species.

Update from Associate Professor Emma Johnston's Subtidal Ecology and Ecotoxicology Group @ UNSW.

The Johnston lab continues to engage in a wide range of ecological and ecotoxicological studies of human impacts in marine systems. Their current major project assessing and understanding ecological changes in highly disturbed estuaries continues with the assistance of a wide range of external collaborators from state government, CSIRO and other Universities. The first publications from this project are beginning to emerge. Further research on the interaction between contamination and marine bioinvasion is also going strong. Emma's post-docs, Katherine Dafforn and Graeme Clark continue to play a major role in the team's research program as do the many students and volunteers. Katherine is working closely with Stuart Simpson (CSIRO) on monitoring tools and sediment ecotoxicology while Graeme focuses more on our bioinvasion research and Antarctic ecology (with Martin Riddle and Jonny Stark at the Australian Antarctic Division). Recent PhD student completions include Louise McKenzie (Reaping the benefits of an anthropogenic contaminant: the evolution of copper tolerance in a marine invader) who is now undertaking a post –doc on pCO_2 tolerance in marine invertebrates at the Smithsonian Institution, USA; and Carol Sukhn (Bioaccumulation of toxicants from complex effluents), who is now managing the Analytical Chemistry laboratory at the American University of Beirut.

Update from Dianne Jolley at the University of Wollongong

An exciting and productive year thus far. Efforts to understand mechanisms of metal toxicity in microalgae have progressed well. Cassandra Smith (PhD student) has commenced a 5-month research internship with Claude Fortin and Peter Campbell in the INRS laboratories in Quebec, and Rebecca Ronchin completing an honours program focused on optimising subcellular fractionation methods for algal cells. Congratulations to David Strom who has submitted his PhD thesis on factors contributing to copper bioavailability and toxicity in sediments. Daniel Ward is also completing experiments and writing his PhD thesis. DGT research is progressing strongly. An Environmental Trust supported project for selenium and arsenic DGT research is in collaboration with Peter Teasdale (Griffith University). This is drawing to a close, with Helen Price and William Bennett (Griffith University) completing experiments and writing publications. Valérie Potron is on internship from the University of Bordeaux (France) until October, and is working with Stuart Simpson and myself correlating data from DGT and sediment toxicity bioassays. This work will be extended by Elvio Amato (Milan, Italy) when he commences his PhD next month, also as part of an Environmental Trust funded program.

General news to celebrate … the decision to drop ERA journal rankings in Australia

The ranking system was a highly controversial component of the Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) assessment of university disciplines.

On the 30th May 2011, the Science Minister Kim Carr announced that the Government and the Australian Research Council had decided to end the system of ranking research journals as A*, A, B and C, giving more authority for the examination and assessment of research activities undertaken in Australian on a discipline-by-discipline basis.

This decision was welcomed by the Australian Academy of Sciences, and their full submission is available at www.science.org.au/reports/

After many years with the Crown Research Institute Landcare Research, Louis Tremblay, Jamie Ataria (1 day a week) and Olivier Champeau joined the Cawthron Institute in Nelson to establish an ecotoxicology capability platform to complement the excellent group of freshwater and marine ecologists. Cawthron is a small private institute providing research based solutions to enable the sustainable management and development of New Zealand's coastal and freshwater systems and resources for the benefit of the region and the nation.

Chris Glover from the School of Biological Sciences at the University of Canterbury in Christchurch has been working on a range of research projects. In collaboration with Sally Gaw (Chemistry), Islay Marsden (SBS) and Ph.D. student Rathi Chandurvelan, Chris is investigating the biomarker responses of the New Zealand native green-lipped mussel to cadmium exposure, and examining the utility of this species as a bioindicator of coastal pollution. In association with colleagues at Scion Research in Rotorua (Amanda Palumbo, Alison Slade, Sean Taylor) and GNS in Wellington (Chris Daughney) they are examining bioremediation of metals from biofuel biorefinery wastewaters in order to improve the environmental sustainability of this potentially important industry. Other work in the laboratory examines the mechanisms underlying the salinity-dependence of copper toxicity to estuarine animals, and investigates the impacts of anthropogenic changes in fresh waters (e.g. acidification, hypoxia) on native galaxiid fish species.

Assoc. Prof. Barrie Peake from the Chemistry Department at Otago University in Dunedin, investigates a wide range of aspects of the prescription, disposal, detection degradation and environmental impact of commonly prescribed pharmaceuticals in New Zealand. This research is being undertaken in collaboration with Dr Rhiannon Braund from the National School of Pharmacy. Although there have been extensive overseas reports of detectable levels of a wide range of pharmaceuticals in a range of natural waters, nothing is known about the situation in New Zealand. One aspect of their research to date has been the degradation of the common antiviral drug oseltamivir (TamifluTM) in aqueous solution under artificial illumination such as UV light alone and in the presence of hydrogen peroxide and iron (III) sulfate. The major photohydrolysis product has been identified and ecotoxicity tests on the parent drug and this photoproduct have been undertaken in conjunction with Dr Louis Tremblay and his research group at the Cawthron Institute in Nelson.

At NIWA, staff in Hamilton (Mike Stewart, Greg Olsen, Sue Clearwater) and Auckland (Jenni Gadd) have been developing methods to analyse emerging contaminants in water and sediments and to measure endocrine disrupting compounds in an *in vivo* bioassay in an internally funded project. The analytes include PBDEs and steroid estrogen (by GC-MS), alkylphenols and bisphenol A (by LC-MS). This work is still in progress. The *in vivo* assay is based on Potamopyrgus antipodarium, the NZ freshwater snail, which produces embryos in response to EDCs. This snail is highly sensitive to EDCs and has been used in Europe for assessing presence of EDCs in sediments.

On the commercial side, NIWA have recently finished a project modelling potential concentrations of anti-fouling compounds in marinas and ports around NZ. This used a model recommended by OECD and will be used in assessing potential risks from new and current antifoulants. NIWA's Hamilton team are busy gearing up for a study assessing the toxicity of flocculated alum and Aqual-P (a modified zeolite). This is proposed to be used to cap sediments in the Rotorua lakes to reduce the phosphorus entering the water column. Toxicity will be assessed in mesocosms containing native fish, molluscs and crustacea, over a period of 60 days. This tolerance data is essential information to provide regulatory authorities, lake guardians and the public that whole-lake dosing with these products will be safe from unintended effects on biota.

NIWA's Chris Hickey continues to be involved in the updates of the ANZECC water quality guidelines. A revised ANZECC nitrate guideline for freshwaters has been derived and the documents accepted by the overseeing Joint Steering Committee. This will be open for public comment prior to final publication. The lower revised guideline has implications for lowland NZ rivers with elevated nitrate concentrations. Issues with protection of groundwater fauna are yet to be addressed. Chris is also a member of the organizing committee for a special SETAC Pelston Workshop on "Influence of Global Climate Change on the Scientific Foundation and Application of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry". Forty international experts will attend the workshop in the US 16-21 July 2011.

Regional Reports

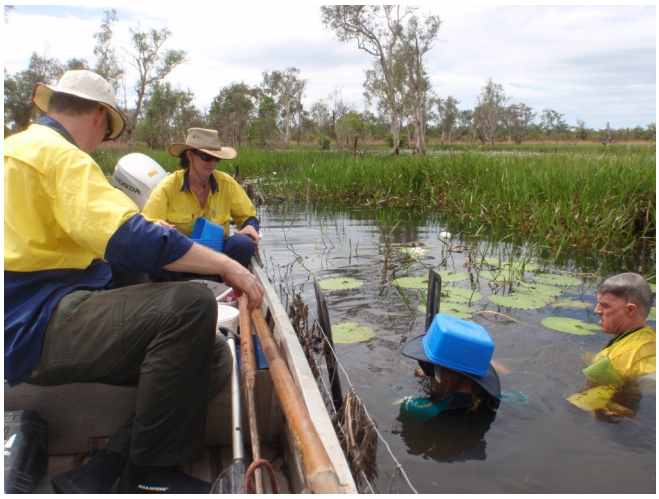
Northern Territory

Following the success of the EnviroTox 2011 conference, the NT members have been settling back into normal work-life. We all had a fantastic time playing host to our colleagues from "down south" and it was great seeing old friends enjoying our local environment. ***eriss*** staff were involved in a total of 10 oral presentations, with eight of these being presented by ***eriss*** staff. As the outgoing SETAC-AU President, Ross Smith, noted in his address at the opening ceremony, the NT has for many years punched above its weight in the field of ecotoxicology and environmental chemistry, and the Darwin conference is likely to strengthen the disciplines in this region.

Prior to the conference, Donald Baird (Environment Canada and University of New Brunswick) spent a couple of days with the ***eriss*** ecotoxicology and biological monitoring groups looking at the their current research and strategic research directions. Donald will soon be reporting his expert views to us, which we will, of course, take on board.

Since the conference, the ***eriss*** team has primarily been focusing on completing the few remaining Mg pulse exposure experiments before Alicia Hogan takes extended leave to be a new mother for a second time. We have now finished (many) toxicity tests on 5 of 6 target species, but we are yet to re-visit the algae pulse exposure experiments, which were proving troublesome. We hope we can crack that tough-nut with some of the helpful suggestions received following Alicia's conference presentation.

Our work investigating the toxicity of uranium in billabong sediments is continuing, and the latest wet-season samples were retrieved a week before the conference. Subsamples have been sent in a number of directions to be analysed for chemistry (Stuart Simpson, CSIRO) prokaryotes (Karen Gibb, CDU), eukaryotes (Anthony Chariton, CSIRO) and macroinvertebrates (in-house). The chemical analysis has been completed and shows that the vast majority of the spiked uranium remained bound to the sediment but was in the weak-acid extractable fraction. The biological analyses are underway and the PCR products will be sequenced in the near-future.



eriss has also welcomed the arrival of a Curtin University honours student, Simon Lunn. Simon will be working on a project that aims to determine the major ions causing toxicity in a saline mining effluent. His supervisors are Monique Gagnon (Curtin U), Rick van Dam and Andrew Harford (**eriss**), and Andrew Storey (UWA). Simon will be at **eriss** for the next 5 months. Melanie Trenfield has also finished her PhD laboratory work and is now in the final stages of completing her thesis. She will submit at end of June (wahoo!).

Student Representatives Report

Welcome to the first Student Reps report of the newly-formed SETAC AU. First, we would like to introduce ourselves as your student representatives:

Bianca Sfiligoj (Australia; Bianca.Sfiligoj@aad.gov.au): PhD Candidate (Ecology), Deakin University and the Australian Antarctic Division,

Tristan Stringer (New Zealand; tristanjstringer@gmail.com): PhD Candidate (Aquatic Ecotoxicology), University of Canterbury, and

Tom Cresswell (Australia; tom.cresswell@csiro.au): PhD Candidate (Aquatic Chemistry and Ecotoxicology), RMIT University and CSIRO Land and Water.

If you have any questions regarding SETAC AU student membership or would like to know more information about the society, please get in touch with us.

Earlier this year, members of the Australasian Society for Ecotoxicology (ASE) voted for the Society to transition to SETAC Australasia (SETAC AU – a chapter of SETAC Asia Pacific) after 17 years of operation. As a result of joining SETAC, student members are now part of a worldwide society with around 5,000 members globally. As a member of SETAC, some of the benefits include subscription to online journals (e.g. ET&C, IEAM), an online Membership Directory and reduced prices on SETAC books and publications. Additionally, as a student member of SETAC, you are entitled to further benefits including reduced registration fees for meetings worldwide, Student Awards and Fellowships to attend meetings/conferences, Résumé/Vitae posting on the Society's website to increase employment opportunities and a Mentorship Program to get advice and guidance from a mentor in a specific or related field of study.

We have recently created the SETAC AU Facebook group, where you can find information on joining SETAC AU as a student member and also get in touch with other student members. Hopefully, this will be an invaluable resource to help create relationships between the region's future environmental chemists and ecotoxicologists. We also hope that the group will be a place for student members to ask other researchers questions and potentially foster collaborations.

Darwin was host to the joint SETAC AU / RACI conference EnviroTox 2011 in April, which was well attended by student members. The quality of both poster and oral presentations by students was excellent and many congratulations to Matthew Neave (Charles Darwin University) for the student prize for oral presentations and Veronica French (AIMS) for the student prize for poster presentations. As part of the conference, a student breakfast was held where students had the opportunity to meet and chat with the conference's Plenary and Keynote Speakers. The breakfast was a great success and many thanks to SETAC AU for sponsoring this event. We hope to continue this event at the next conference as it provided students an informal environment to chat with successful and well established scientists from academia, government and commercial organisations.

Student Profile—Tristan Stringer

Name: Tristan Stringer

Institutions: University of Canterbury and Landcare Research

Degree: Doctor of Philosophy (Aquatic Ecotoxicology)

Supervisors: Drs. Louis Tremblay (Cawthron Institute), Chris Glover (University of Canterbury), Vaughan Keesing (Boffa Miskell)

Estimated time of completion: Jan 2012

Thesis title: Evaluation of the ecological impacts of pollution on New Zealand estuaries using molecular and bioassay approaches with the marine copepod *Quinquelaophonte stringeri*

How did you get involved in ecotoxicological research?

I have always been interested in biology. As a boy I spent a lot of time walking in the New Forest, in southern England, with my Grandfather who was a botanist. I was captivated by the beauty and elegance of nature and I soon realised that the onus was on us to maintain and preserve the resources on Earth. By the time I finished high school, I decided that I wanted to be involved in environmental clean-up and restoration. I discovered the field of Ecotoxicology while studying towards my B.Sc. in Environmental and Conservation Biology at the University of Washington (UW). In the third year of my B.Sc. I had the privilege of being accepted for a foreign exchange to the University of Canterbury in Christchurch, New Zealand and was introduced to Dr. Louis Tremblay. I had a keen interest in his work in ecotoxicology and was fortunate to able to assist him with some of his research. It was these experiences which really led me to decide to become involved in ecotoxicology research.

What led you to your Ph.D. project and what's the importance of your work?

I completed the fourth year of my B.Sc. and my honours project on toxicity of imidacloprid (an insecticide) to juvenile salmonids at UW and was really enjoying research. At that time Dr. Tremblay offered me two potential projects that sparked my interest and I decided that I wanted to continue to do research. I was awarded a University of Canterbury Doctoral Scholarship, and I was able to start my Ph.D. research on developing both molecular and bioindicator responses to contaminated sediments with harpacticoid copepods. This research is designed to provide the tools to enhance monitoring efficacy using native species and, as there is only limited estuarine sediment monitoring in New Zealand, is significant for the well being of estuaries.

In addition, working with copepods allows us to have multiple generation exposures in a relatively short time scale and to explore effects of low level contaminant pressure on genetic diversity and population structure and sensitivity, an area of research which is not very well understood.

Student Profile (cont'd)

What experimental work have you undertaken so far?

I first undertook a study to find the best suited New Zealand native harpacticoid copepod for use in the sediment bioassay. I found that many of the copepod species were unable to be cultured and the process to find the right species was largely of trial and error and a lot of patience. I was able to culture two species of harpacticoids, *Robertsonia propinqua* and the newly identified *Quinquelaophonte stringeri*. *Quinquelaophonte stringeri* was then chosen as my bioassay species through a combination of factors including life history, sensitivity data, and the fact that it is named after me!

Once the bioassay species was chosen two sediment bioassays were validated, one acute and one chronic, each including sublethal and lethal endpoints. We have begun testing estuarine sediments from around New Zealand and results are expected in the next few months. In addition, we are collaborating with the University of Otago Chemistry Department and School of Pharmacy to test the toxicity and environmental safety of commonly used pharmaceuticals. This joint project, using our bioassay, tested Tamiflu and its breakdown products and has recently been published in Environmental Chemistry.

Where to from here with your work?

I have recently started multi-generation exposures assessing the impact of long-term exposure to zinc. This study is looking at population growth as well as genetic diversity and changes in sensitivity to zinc and other toxicants over time. This is a very exciting time in my research as it is the culmination of my thesis and potentially an area to develop further research.

I am also continuing to test pharmaceuticals which are becoming an area of concern owing to the large numbers of these chemicals that are being detected in sewage effluent. I feel that this is going to be a significant issue in the future. The compounds that I am assessing are a variety of antibiotics and general pain killers such as paracetamol and aspirin.

What are your plans for the future?

The first is to finish my Ph.D. research, which is only a few months away, then to continue to write and submit my thesis by the end of the year. Once I finish I hope to undertake a Postdoctoral position, and I am currently looking for opportunities in Australia.

17 - 20 April 2011
Darwin, NT, Australia

Hosted by

The wash-up

Article by Rick van Dam, Andrew Harford and Alicia Hogan

As you are all well-aware, EnviroTox 2011, the inaugural conference of the newly-established SETAC-Australasia chapter (SETAC AU) was held from 17-20 April in Darwin in conjunction with the Royal Australian Chemical Institute (RACI). For those unlucky few that couldn't make it, we've provide a summary below or, for those less inclined to take the time to read, a pictorial summary as well.

Our corporate sponsorship campaign was very successful. Crocodile Gold Australia Operations was the conference's Gold (major) sponsor, with Charles Darwin University, Northern Territory Environmental Laboratories and Energy Resources of Australia as Silver sponsors, and Vision Environment, Agilent Technologies and the Australian Institute of Marine Science as Bronze sponsors. Although the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities / Environmental Research Institute of the Supervising Scientist was not an official sponsor of the meeting, the in-kind support offered in the lead-up to and during the conference was substantial, and deserves mention.

Fortunately, the start of the conference coincided with the first taste of the dry season, making the weather very pleasant and bearable for those visiting from the less extreme and considerably chillier temperate climates. The conference was attended by around 220 delegates, almost a third of which were local. Over 20 international scientists also attended, from Canada, China, USA, Fiji, New Zealand, South Africa, South Korea and the UK. Preceding the conference was a Sunday filled with three well-attended short courses/workshops covering the topics of *Introduction to Ecotoxicology*, *Ecogenomics* and *Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals*.

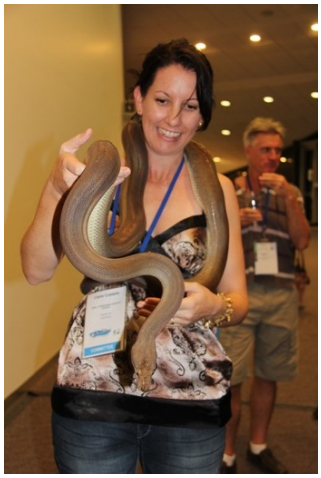
The conference consisted of around 120 oral presentations and 30 poster presentations. The three outstanding plenary speakers, Tracy Collier (US National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration), Samuel Luoma (formerly US Geological Survey, now Rio Tinto) and Mary Reiley (US EPA), presented highly-informative and engaging lectures, which provided a solid base for the multiple concurrent daily sessions. The conference also benefited from the attendance of six prominent international and national keynote speakers, as well as the presence of the current SETAC World Vice-President (and incoming President) Tim Canfield.

It became clear from the high-quality presentations that ecotoxicology and environmental chemistry have truly found a symbiotic relationship in the region. The conference provided patent evidence of a significant evolution of these fields in Australasia, and the vast majority of the presentations included both biological and physico-chemical data. Moreover, the conference illustrated that there is ever-increasing integration with other key disciplines, including microbiology, molecular biology and ecology. Reflecting this, integrated assessment and monitoring was a key theme throughout the three days of presentations. There was also an even spread of representation from academia, government and industry, providing a broad range of perspectives.

The Local Organising Committee would like to thank the host societies, sponsors and all the participants for an extremely educational and fun conference! Congratulations also to the student prize winners for best oral presentation, Matthew Neave (Charles Darwin University) and best poster presentation, Veronica French (AIMS). Those interested in seeing the conference abstracts can download the conference book from http://www.envirotox2011.org/images/stories/envirotox%20book%20-%20web.pdf.

Dancers at the welcome reception with audience participation from some familiar faces

Rick van Dam (ERISS) and Tim Canfield (SETAC Vice President) officially open the conference



Claire Costello (ERISS) and Jenny Stauber (CSIRO) enjoy a 'reptilian encounter' at the Welcome Reception

EnviroTox 2011 delegates

G-MW researcher develops improved sampling technique for herbicide residue trials

Goulburn Murray Rural Water Authority (G-MW), Victoria, Australia in collaboration with CSIRO, Australia (Dr Rai Kookan's group), is conducting an environmental risk assessment of herbicides (2,4-D and glyphosate) used in channels, drains and natural carriers to control aquatic plants. An important part of this program is a field validation experiment of herbicide residue to complement the desktop assessment. This field validation experiment requires an efficient methodology to sample water before spraying, soon after spraying, and during a withholding period. The most important part of this experiment, however, is sampling the first flush as soon as the water is released into the channel, three-to-four days after spraying. Water samples are collected along the channel from several equally-spaced points and must be completed before water flows downstream.

The previous technique raised potential Occupational Health & Safety (OHS) issues as it required people to enter the channel frequently to collect samples. This process was not only time consuming and potentially dangerous, but also disturbed the flow of water and possibly the channel's sediments and organic matter.

G-MW's Dr Golam Kibria devised an innovative solution. His simple set-up addressed both the OHS and sampling issues. The new set-up does not require people to enter the channel, reducing risks from injuries, while still allowing efficient sampling of water moving through post spraying without disturbing normal flows. Simply put, a peg is fixed at the bank of each sampling point to mark the current water level, 1 cm level (first flush) and full supply level. Six nalgene bottles are individually tied with cable ties to a basket and a 2.5 kg weight is placed in each basket to enhance sinking. The basket containing six bottles is then attached to an extended rod, to sample from the centre of each sampling point when water reaches the marked low and high rise points.

The new set-up was tested recently under field conditions. It worked well reducing the time needed to sample at any given point and ensured that the samplers could get to the next sampling point before the water arrived. CSIRO collaborators could also see the benefits associated with the new set-up and commended Golam for this practical innovation. Further information can be obtained by emailing: golamk@g-mwater.com.au

Six nalgene bottles tied together to a basket using cable ties

Sampling of six bottles at one time from the centre of the channel without entering into the channel

CSIRO Centre for Environmental Contaminants Research, Sydney

CECR has been a hive of activity in the first half of the year primarily due to a steady stream of commercial testing, which has made us forget how cold the start of winter has been in Sydney. However, many of us escaped the cold to attend the SETAC conference in Darwin. Attendees, who included Graeme Batley, Jenny Stauber, Simon Apte, Stuart Simpson, Sharon Hook, Anthony Chariton, Merrin Adams, Monique Binet, David Spadaro, Olivia Campana, Tom Creswell, Steph Gardham and Daniel Ward, had a great time in Darwin seeing some high quality presentations from our fellow ecotoxicologists and environmental chemists and socialising well into the night. A big thank you to the conference organising committee for putting together such a great conference.

Jenny heads overseas on 2 July to participate in a SETAC Pellston-style workshop on the Influence of Global Climate Change on Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry in USA. She is one of six invitees in the working group on climate change and ecological risk assessment. Prior to that meeting, she is presenting some of the work being undertaken by the toxicants working group (as part of the Australasian water and sediment quality guidelines revision) at the 15th International Symposium on Toxicity Assessment in Hong Kong. So she does still get to do and think science sometimes!

Anthony and Stuart are currently wrapping up a project with Kay Ho's group from the USEPA and Claudia Gunsch from Duke University which examined the effects of the antibacterial agent, triclosan, on estuarine biota. Anthony, Sarah Stephenson and their CSIRO colleagues from CES and MDFRC have also been working in a number of south east Queensland estuaries and a drought affected floodplain in the Murray-Darling Basin.

Monique has been working in collaboration with Chris Doyle (ESA) looking at the effects of pH and salinity on sea urchin sperm longevity. She presented their latest findings at the recent meeting in Darwin. Monique, David and Leandro Giovannini have been heavily involved in commercial toxicity projects for the oil and gas sector, working with produced formation waters.

Brad Angel, now a permanent member of CECR (congratulations Brad!), has been responsible for the forward progress of all things nano. Recently he has been investigating the effect of humic acid on the aggregation and dissolution of silver nanoparticles and their toxic effects following exposure to freshwater algae and water fleas

Tom has continued his award winning research (SETAC oral presentation award) into the trace metal accumulation mechanisms of freshwater prawns (*Macrobrachium sp.*) using radioisotopes of Cd and Zn in collaboration with ANSTO Environment.

Well that's a wrap.

Macrobrachium sp.
(image courtesy of scienceimage.csiro.au)

International Conference on Deriving Environmental Quality Standards for the Protection of Aquatic Ecosystems (EQSPAE – 2011)

3-7 December 2011

University of Hong Kong (HKU), Hong Kong

This conference will be jointly organised by HKU and SETAC Asia Pacific. It will consist of 1-day training workshop, 1-day field trip and 3-day scientific symposium. The objectives of this proposed conference include to:

- Provide a platform for knowledge transfer and idea exchange with respect to the latest development in scientific derivation and application of water and sediment quality guidelines in different parts of the world.
- Foster regional and international collaboration in research and development among scientists, environmental consultants, policy makers and governmental officers engaging in the field of water quality management.
- Resolve some of the pressing practical issues in the establishment and application of environmental quality standards (EQS).
- Identify knowledge gaps and prioritise emerging research areas in the field.
- To train young scientists, and environmental practitioners on how to derive environmental quality standards.
- Produce an edited volume – A Handbook for Scientific Derivation of Water and Sediment Quality Criteria.

For more information, visit www.biosch.hku.hk/eqspae or contact the Conference Secretary Dr. Janet Chan via email at chanjky@hku.hk, or

Conference Chairman, Dr. Kenneth Leung at kmyleung@hku.hk.

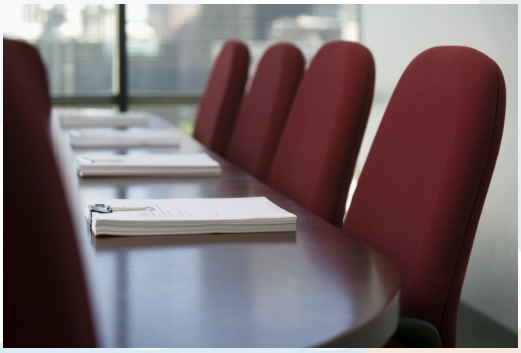
SETAC Asia Pacific 2012

18-21 September 2012

ANA Hotel Kumamoto Newsky, Kumamoto, Japan

Following the successful 2010 meeting organised at Guangzhou, China, the biannual SETAC Asia Pacific 2012 meeting will be held at Kumamoto, Japan. This meeting will be jointly organised by SETAC Asia Pacific Geographical Unit, Japanese Society for Environmental Chemistry and Prefectural University of Kumamoto. The target number of participants would be about 500 people. During this meeting, there will be a half-day optional trip for delegates to visit the old town of Minamata and learn more about the historical outbreak of mercury poisoning, as well as see the new town of Minamate which is the "Greenest" city of Japan. Spectacularly, the conference dinner will be held at the ancient Kumamoto Castle. All in all, this is going to a meeting that cannot be missed. As anticipated, an official meeting website and more details will be made available in July 2011. There will be a call for session proposal soon. Please mark the date on your diary and start to think about the session proposal.

For more information, please contact the Conference Chairman Prof. Koji Arizono via email at arizono@pu-kumamoto.ac.jp or President of SETAC Asia-Pacific, Dr. Kenneth Leung at kmyleung@hku.hk.



Job Opportunity in Perth, WA

Ecotoxicology Position Vacancy

Perth, Western Australia

Intertek GEOTECH

Geotech is seeking a qualified Ecotoxicologist to join its Ecotoxicology Division. The Fremantle based Ecotoxicology Division offers a range of services for assessing the environmental risk from potentially contaminated water and sediment to meet the needs of industry, government and environmental regulators.

Position:	Ecotoxicologist
Type:	Full time
Location:	Fremantle, Western Australia
Salary:	Commensurate with experience

This is an excellent opportunity for an ambitious Ecotoxicologist with a strong work ethic to further their career in a commercial laboratory that offers a variety of interesting projects.

We expect the successful candidate to have good interpersonal and communication skills as well as excellent client relationship management skills.

Selection Criteria

- A higher degree in Ecotoxicology or environmental science equivalent
- Demonstrated experience in performing a range of aquatic bioassays
- High level of laboratory competency with commitment to quality
- Demonstrated ability to interpret and report toxicity testing data
- Ability to communicate effectively within a multi-disciplinary organization
- Proven ability to work independently or within a team environment under tight deadlines
- Experience using relevant software packages for statistical analysis and reporting
- Basic experience with relevant field sampling techniques
- Current driver's license

Desirable

- Industry experience in a commercial laboratory would be highly regarded
- Knowledge of ecotoxicology in the context of domestic and international regulatory guidelines

All applicants must address the selection criteria in their curriculum vitae which may be forwarded to:
birgitta@geotechnical-services.com.au

For further information regarding this position, please contact us:

Email: birgitta@geotechnical-services.com.au
Phone: (08) 9458 8877
Website: www.geotechnical-services.com.au

Status of AJE

How to Kickstart a Scientific Journal

Hopefully everybody is now aware that the Australasian Journal of Ecotoxicology (AJE) is coming to a close, but will rise again like a phoenix out of the ashes of the discarded pages, as the all new and shiny "*Australasian Bulletin of Ecotoxicology and Environmental Chemistry*". ABEEC (no, the acronym does not really roll off the tongue) can start immediately, and I thought the best way to kick it off would be with a dedicated issue. I am hoping to get suggestions from the SETAC AU membership as to the subject of the dedicated issue. Do you have a pet subject that is:

i) specific or of importance to Australian environmental conditions;

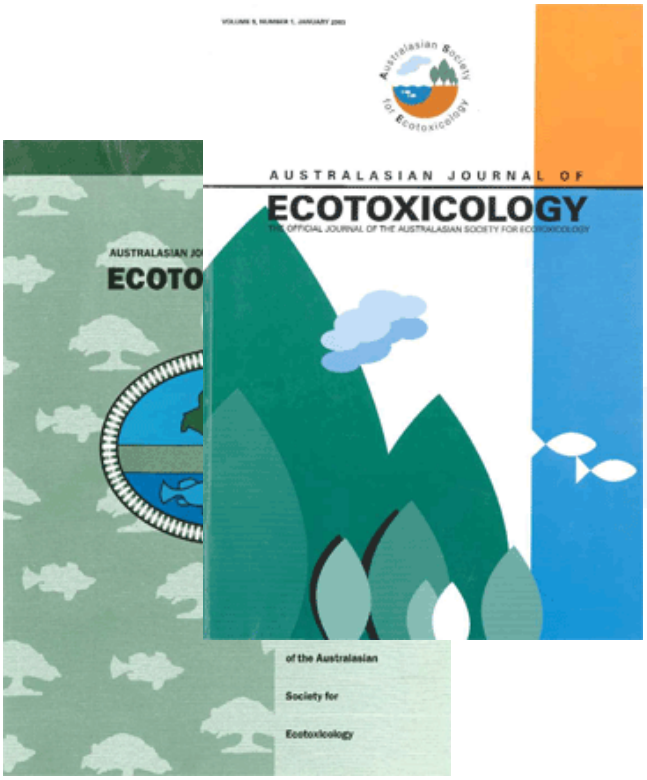
ii) under-represented in the literature and in need of greater exposure; and

iii) can draw authors from Australia and overseas.

If you have any ideas, the please contact me to discuss our first issue.

Reinier Mann

(Editor, *Australasian Bulletin of Ecotoxicology and Environmental Chemistry*)
reinier.mann@hydrobiology.biz



Transition of ASE to SETAC-AU

Important Membership Update

Many former ASE members have not yet transferred their membership to SETAC. For people other than those in the "Exceptions Categories" listed in the email below, this is becoming critical if you are to retain continuity of membership and enjoy access to SETAC publications and member discounts.

On 10 January ASE members were sent the following email:

Dear Colleagues,

The transition date from ASE to SETAC-AU was 1 January 2011. ASE will not send out membership renewals for 2011. Membership fee payments will be processed through SETAC from now on. DO NOT attempt to renew ASE membership at the ASE website.

Most current ASE members were paid up members of ASE until 31 December 2010, and so should renew their society membership for 2011 by paying a membership fee to SETAC via the SETAC website www.setac.org (either online or by completing a pdf available from the website). At the SETAC website, go to "membership" then to "join now" and select "Asia/Pacific". You will need to provide contact details and other information to SETAC since your current ASE information is in the ASE database and cannot be easily transferred to the SETAC database. All Sustaining, Ordinary and Student ASE members should do this UNLESS they fall into one of the "exceptions" categories listed below.

Inevitably there may be some teething problems with the transition of membership. Any member experiencing difficulty should advise us of any problems and we will seek to address them.

EXCEPTIONS:

(1) If you are ALREADY a member of SETAC, you simply renew your membership of SETAC for 2011 in the normal way. Your membership will automatically be assigned to SETAC-AU from 1 January 2011. You now pay one membership fee rather than both SETAC and ASE fees.

(2) If you are prepaid for ASE membership for 2011 or beyond (for example members who joined ASE late in 2010), do nothing yet. ASE will negotiate this with SETAC to ensure your membership prepayment is honoured.

(3) If you are an honorary life member of ASE, do nothing yet. ASE will negotiate with SETAC to ensure your membership is honoured.

(4) If you are resident in Papua New Guinea, do nothing yet. ASE will advise membership fees and payment methods early in 2011.

Regards
Dr Scott Wilson
Honorary ASE Secretary

Currently SETAC AU membership fees are quoted in $US. Accordingly ASE members who have not made the change are urged to **"Get in quick while the Australian Dollar is way ahead"!!!**

Please note:
The transition to SETAC AU has now been in place for almost 6 months. Membership records and renewals processing is now handled at SETAC in the USA. Your old membership records in the ASE database are not being updated.
The people in the "exceptions categories (2), (3), and (4)" will be advised when their memberships have been transferred, and they can then log in to SETAC and update their personal detaials as appropriate.

Having difficulties transfering to SETAC?:
Email ASE@hydrobiology and we will help you through it.

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