

ENVIRONMENTAL DEVELOPMENT



& ALLIED PROFESSIONALS

PRESIDENTS REPORT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FORBES 2010

It is with great satisfaction that I present my third report as President of the Environmental Development and Allied Professionals Group.

I am pleased with the achievements of the Group over the 2009/2010 year and of the level of support provided by the Executive and the Committee. Despite busy work schedules the Committee has made a magnificent job of carrying out the activities of the group.

The Committee has worked well organising the Forbes Conference with special mention of our colleagues from Forbes Shire Council. An excellent program has been developed including inspection visits of the Central West Livestock Exchange and McFeeters Motor Museum, and a Fat Fire Demonstration by the NSW Fire Brigade.

The highlights of the year include the following activities:-

Jenolan Caves Conference 2009

The Jenolan Caves Conference proved to be very successful thanks to an excellent program, high quality social functions and the wonderful fellowship enjoyed by all. There were some 107 registrations for this conference and the committee members and staff from Oberon Council, particularly Ralph Tambasco, did a wonderful job in coordinating the conference at a local level and looking after all of the fine detail.

Caves House proved to be a wonderful venue and the expedition to Lucas Cave and visit of inspection to Oberon Timber Mill added to the experience.

Committee

The committee met during the year using teleconferences and face to face meetings. They have been an active and cohesive group working for the benefit of EDAP members. I would like to thank the committee for their contribution and to thank also Cathy McGrath of Parkes Shire Council and Helen Lindsay of ARL Consulting for their administrative support.

The 2009/2010 Committee comprised:

Colin Frost	Vice President/Public Officer
Alan Lindsay	Secretary/Treasurer
Rochelle MacKay	
Matthew Teale	
Gerard vanYzendoorn	
Melissa Aylward	
Donna Sims	
Ralph Tambasco	

Training

The only training provided by EDAP for the year was a Professional Development Forum, held in Parkes in December, to promote discussion on a variety of current issues. The forum proved to be very successful as was the opportunity to get together socially.

In addition the group fruitfully negotiated with AIBS to hold the workshops in Regional NSW on Swimming Pool Assessments and Energy Efficiency Changes.

A Training and Conference Survey will be conducted following the Conference and your help in completing same would be appreciated.

Web site

The EDAP web site, www.edap.org.au, has been further enhanced during the year and is being frequently used by members in accessing training and conference information. The search function has proven popular as well as additional links. Site statistics show some 3915 hits for 1 to 27 April 2010. The committee plans to add further resources to the site including conference presentations. The site has proven to be a great benefit to the group in centralising information on activities such as training and reduced printing and postage costs for conference program registrations and newsletters. Feedback on improvements to the site is always welcome.

NSW Government Changes

The group continued to examine and comment on changes being forced by the NSW Government including Accreditation of Council Health & Building Surveyors, changes to Plumbing and Drainage requirements and review of the Public Health Act. This has resulted in major changes to accreditation proposals which are now in place under the administration of the Building Professionals Board.

The group has made submissions on the Plumbing and Drainage Requirements and the Public Health Act. The industry knowledge of NSW Government officers drafting and managing some of these changes must be under question.

Membership

Membership continues to increase and we now have in excess of 362 members. Maintaining up to date membership details continues to be a problem and the committee may need to put more resources into this during the next year. This organisation will continue to grow while ever it strives to meet the needs of Environmental Health and Building Surveyors, Planners, Environmental Engineers and other related professions at the grass roots level.

Newsletter

Melissa Aylward and Donna Sims have maintained our newsletter but we can always use more input and articles from members. The committee feels that the newsletter is a great way of keeping the group up to date with activities and providing information on industry linked matters.

Partnerships

The EDAP group has developed and maintained good partnerships with related organisations such as AIBS, DEPA, NSW Food Authority and Riverina Group. Members of the executive enjoyed the hospitality of the Riverina Group at their successful Conference held at Barham.

The NSW Food Authority has maintained its commitment and support in implementation of the Food Regulation Partnership with Local Government. This partnership is refreshing and unprecedented in its level of genuine collaboration, training and support.

Retirements

During the year long serving member of the group Stewart West retired. It is the committees practice to present retired members with a card and engraved pen on behalf of EDAP.

Conclusion

I see the activities of the EDAP group being more essential than ever in supporting the needs of our professions at a grass roots level. The opportunities for fellowship and support are also particularly important in the current environment.

I have enjoyed the past seven years serving on the committee and the third year as President. The guidance and advice provided by the Vice President, Colin Frost and the Secretary Treasurer, Alan Lindsay has been invaluable. I have nominated for the 2010/2011 EDAP Committee and trust that I have your support.

Please enjoy the Forbes Conference and I look forward to catching up with you during the sessions or at one of the social functions.



Steven Campbell
President
EDAP (Western Group) Inc