



**PRESIDENTS REPORT  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
JENOLAN CAVES 2009**

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

I am proud of the achievements of the Group over the 2008/2009 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 group's projects.

The committee has been working hard on organising the Jenolan Caves Conference with special mention of Ralph Tambasco from Oberon Council. An excellent program has been developed including a guided tour of the Lucas Cave and a visit of inspection to the Oberon Timber Complex.

The highlights of the year include the following activities:-

**Parkes Conference 2008**

The Parkes Conference proved to be very successful thanks to an excellent program, high quality social functions and the wonderful fellowship enjoyed by all. Committee members and staff from Parkes Shire Council particularly my PA Cathy McGrath did a wonderful job in coordinating the conference at a local level and looking after all of the fine detail.

The support provided by our speakers and by the conference sponsors ensured that it was enlightening and that delegates had the opportunity to meet informally.

The visit of inspection to the Peak Hill Open Cut Experience and the Parkes Radio Telescope "The Dish" provided delegates with a feel of the Parkes environment. The Conference dinner held in the Little Theatre was exceptional with entertainment provided by our Elvis impersonator Barry Green and the delegates karaoke. There were noted performances by the Forbes representatives which ensured a great evening.

**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 2008/2009 Committee comprised:

Colin Frost - Vice President/Public Officer  
Alan Lindsay - Secretary/Treasurer  
Terry Knowles - IT

Rochelle MacKay - Training  
Matthew Teal - Trainee programs  
Gerard vanYzendoorn- Newsletter  
Paul O'Brien - Sponsors  
Ralph Tambasco - Conference

## **Training**

A training survey was attempted at the Parkes Conference to give the committee an idea of the areas to be targeted for training and the Conference Program. The training provided by EDAP for the year included the following:

POEO Authorised Officer Training  
Professional Development Forum held at Orange on Accreditation  
Trainee EHO Retreat in conjunction with NSW Food Authority

It was an honour for our group to be approached by the NSW Food Authority to host the Trainee EHO Retreat. The event proved to be very successful and was attended by some 40 trainees and mentors. It is hoped that this program will continue and our group is happy to host same.

A training survey will be again conducted at the Conference and your cooperation in completing same would be appreciated.

## **Web site**

The EDAP web site, [www.edap.org.au](http://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 added last year had proven popular as well as additional links, site statistics show some 2875 hits over the last month. The committee plans to add further resources to the site during the coming year 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.

## **Government Changes**

I believe that our members are continuing to carry out an important role in Development/Building assessment and compliance together with other duties despite the many ill-conceived changes being introduced by the NSW Department of Planning. The group lodged a submission on the accreditation proposals being introduced by the Building Professionals Board. This was distributed to politicians and has gained the support of Dawn Fardell MP, Member for Dubbo who spoke on the matter in Parliament. The group supports the position taken by DEPA in regard to accreditation of Council Environmental Health and Building Surveyors. The changes have been deferred now for introduction after June 2009 and one hopes that the approach to accreditation will be altered.

Submissions were also made seeking review of AS 4674 Fit out of Food Premises and changes to Plumbing & Drainage requirements which if introduced would preclude EH&BS from carrying out certain inspections.

## **Membership**

Membership continues to increase and we now have in excess of 350 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**

Gerard vanYzendoorn has been able to keep up the good work with 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, DoP Western Region and Riverina Group. Members of the executive enjoyed the hospitality of the Riverina Group at their successful Conference held at Junee.

The NSW Food Authority should be congratulated on the introduction 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 a number of long serving members of the group have retired and/or been recognised. It is the committees practice to present these members with a card and engraved pen on behalf of EDAP which this year included:- Peter Tissen, Col Cluderay, Phil Bird, John Weatherly - Retirements and Ted Clarke 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday.

## **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 particularly important in the current environment.

I have enjoyed the past six years serving on the committee and the second 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 again nominated for the 2009/2010 EDAP Committee and trust that I have your support.

Please enjoy the Oberon 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