

ENVIRONMENTAL DEVELOPMENT



& ALLIED PROFESSIONALS

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Welcome to the quarterly EDAP Newsletter.

As a result of some very positive feedback to our first efforts, we have been inspired to greater heights in both quality and quantity for our second edition.

We have received some great articles and news snippets from members.

Just a reminder that if you have news, gossip, articles that you think are worthy of sharing in the Newsletter, please forward them on to myself or Mel, and we will include them in the next edition.

At the last Committee meeting it was suggested that the newsletter include a celebrity interview, so read on to find out what makes our first celebrity guest, Mark Hodges, tick.

We hope you enjoy catching up on the news around the region, and we look forward to seeing you at Forbes for the Conference - book early!

Donna Sims and Melissa Aylward

maylward@orange.nsw.gov.au

MEMBERSHIP

The current EDAP membership now stands at 356 with the latest member being Brad Carmody a private planner from Blackheath who will be at the Forbes Conference.

Our first member was Alan Stranger of Dubbo City Council who joined EDAP. Since its inauguration, EDAP has quietly gone from strength to strength.

Membership of EDAP is free and members are kept up to date on events and happenings by email - so if your details change, please notify the Secretary Alan Lindsay so that you can continue to receive newsletters and updates.

EDAP email address is arlconsulting@bigpond.com.

WHAT'S ON

During the year EDAP organises various events and training courses. One such training seminar is the Trainees Retreat (more details from Matty at Forbes).

The Annual EDAP Conference takes place in the first week of May, and this year it is hosted by Forbes Council, and sports a colonial theme. The Forbes team have put in a lot of work to make this year's Conference a success.



2010 REGIONAL CONFERENCE

The dates have been set for the 2010 EDAP Regional Conference to be held in Forbes on 6 and 7 May 2010 starting with Welcoming Drinks on Wednesday evening 5 May 2010.

The theme for the 2010 EDAP Conference is 'Busrangers' so hold onto your wallets and jewels.

Forbes is located in the central west of NSW on the banks of the Lachlan River and is steeped in history of bushranging and its gold rush past.

Activities organised for the conference include tours of the Central West Livestock Exchange Cattle Yards and McFeeters Vintage Car Collection, a fire fighting display, and entertainment by a local bush poet.

A great program is being developed with prominent speakers to ensure whether you are employed in Local Government, State Government or the Private Sector as a Building Surveyor, Town Planner, Environmental Health Surveyor, or related discipline the Forbes conference will have something for you.

If you require any further information visit the EDAP website at www.edap.org.au or contact the EDAP Secretary, Alan Lindsay at the following:

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EDAP ROUNDUP

Staff movements

Adrian Butler from Bourke to Lachlan Shire Council

Francois van derBerg from Brewarrina to Lachlan Shire

Kate Dickson from Oberon to Greater Hume

Stewart West retired from Oberon Council after 42 years in LG

Mark Dicker from Lithgow to Oberon

Lee Dunstan from Forbes to Sydney City Council

Colin Wood from Blue Mountains to Penrith City Council

John Weatherley retired Mid Western Council (Mudgee)

Timothy O'Reilly new at Mid Western

-----STOP PRESS-----

Following the BPB Board meeting at Orange and the announcement by the Board of its first accredited Council Certifier, the Sydney Morning Herald on 6th April gave a brief of the first BPB accredited certifier which makes interesting reading.

Mr Speedy takes NSW by storm

April 6, 2010

SPEEDING up building and planning approvals is a frequently repeated priority for the NSW government. It clearly knows where to find the right man for the job.

The first council building surveyor to be officially accredited by the Building Professionals Board is Bernie Wilder, the manager of environmental services at Bourke Shire Council.

The board's insistence that council building surveyors be subject to the same accreditation processes as private certifiers has proved contentious, with councils maintaining this is not necessary. The scheme started on March 1.

Bernie Wilder was the planner for seven years at Glenelg Shire Council in far south-western Victoria, where he was a private consultant contracted by the council to run the planning department.

The average time to turn around development applications in NSW is 74 days: Mr Wilder's average at Glenelg in 2003 was reportedly 1.7 days. Mr Wilder said his speedy granting of permits was "only to try to help people and get things going". In 2008 Mr Wilder ran for election to the Glenelg Council on a platform of alleviating the shire's planning woes.

This prompted the Victorian Planning Minister, Justin Madden, to describe planning at Glenelg as a "shemozzle".

"I am informed that ... between 300 and 340 permits were issued at the Glenelg shire, and some would suggest they were issued outside the law. Each one of them was processed within 48 hours, they were processed with no third-party appeal rights, and the common theme is a gentleman by the name of Bernie Wilder."

Bourke Council, where Mr Wilder now works, has an average development application processing time of 19 days compared with 37 days for similar councils and state average of 74 days.

Harvey Grennan

Copy of EDAP Representation to BPB.

To The Directors
Building Professional Board
PO Box 3720
PARRAMATTA NSW 2124



24th March 2010

Dear Sir/Madam

RE: Accreditation of Council Building Surveyors

I refer to the recent BPP Q & A session held at Orange on Monday 22 March 2010 and to the following important issues that were raised by Environmental Health and Building Surveyors present.

The EDAP group feels that the following matters need to be addressed by the Board to allow its members to properly consider whether or not to seek accreditation

- 1. There is still lack of clarity in regard to the issue of liability of Council Accredited Certifiers. In this regard the group requests that the Board make available a copy of its legal opinion on this issue for consideration and for the purposes of discussions with Council insurers. The Group's advice is that the protection afforded by section 731 of the LG Act may be arguable in certain situations.**
- 2. The Board indicated that the disciplinary procedures as set out under the Act would not be extended to Council Accredited Certifiers. If the Board does not intend to discipline council employees, it should specify that intention clearly in the BP Act.**
- 3. Exemption protocols need to be developed and circulated for comment. There was discussion at the meeting concerning critical stage inspections by different levels of certifiers and the fact that some areas will not be practically serviced by CAC's and PAC's.**
- 4. In the likely event that Councils will need to engage the services of a PAC it is felt that the Board should provide a practice note on the procedure for engagement of same. This should cover a Council's duty of care in making and managing such appointment.**
- 5. Should access to appropriate courses for upgrading of qualifications not be practicably available it is suggested that the transition period be extended.**

The group would like to praise the Board on its decision to bring some of its meetings out to regional areas to gain a better understanding of the issues affecting regional Environmental Health and Building Surveyors and also on the appointment of a Local Government Liaison Officer.

The Board's efforts to secure appropriate tertiary courses for Health and Building Surveyors is commended and would have the full support of this group.

The group looks forward to your reply and would be pleased to provide any additional information which may be required on these matters.

EDAP maintains its strong opposition in principle to the proposed accreditation of Council Building Surveyors for reasons already previously stated in our former submissions.

Regards

Alan Lindsay

Secretary

Cc EDAP members

Ms Sue Holiday President BPB

D Fardell MP Member for Dubbo

AIBS

DEPA

The Sad State of Food

It would appear that the Minister for Agriculture is about to allow meat into Australia which comes from countries that in the past have been affected with Mad Cow Disease. These will be pre-processed meat cuts and should lower the current high cost of meat.

The problem will arise with labelling of the product if it is used by a manufacturer to say process meat pies, it will be legal to use, but what details will the consumer have?

If the product is directly weighed or counted in the presence of the consumer then labelling does not have to occur, the same as with sausages etc.

Maybe in the future it will be a lottery to buy a meat product or you could just go in and buy the article in a wild or 'mad' moment.

On another subject, as I am still out and about and I do observe the habits of selling, I have noticed that a lack of product labelling, particularly from bakeries, and exposed food products, is still happening. It would appear that the regime of rounding up those premises selling unlabelled product is not a priority - pity really!



Colin Frost

Vice-Chairman EDAP

Celebrity Chat



This issue's celebrity guest is Mark Hodges, who is a long-time EDAP member and the life of the party wherever he goes. For those who have not had the pleasure, Mark is Manager Building and Environment at Orange City Council.

When I was young I wanted to be ... a secret agent (I actually gave a presentation on the OH & S hazards of a secret agent at Unil - I couldn't tell the class much)

My favourite movie is ... Spy Game (Robert Redford and Brad Pitt)

Editors comment - we had our money on Stepbrothers or the Simpsons Movie

It drives me crazy when... My hair looks close to average

It makes me smile when... People are having fun, particularly my workmates or my kids (they have a few similarities)

My worst habit is... Giving direction to staff using quotes from movies (staff have to watch the movie to have any clue what I've asked)

Editors comment - this is why we had our money on Stepbrothers or The Simpsons Movie

My favourite food/drink is... Bouillabaisse with a Sauvignon Blanc on the side

I'd like to be stuck on a deserted island with... An attractive female chef (or Kate Winslett - I'll do the cooking)

I know it's not trendy but I like... Wearing my budgie smugglers

My dream job is... A developer, you don't have to think too much to do your job

If you could have a superpower what would it be... time travel

What was your most embarrassing moment?... Falling out of a wheelie bin and breaking my ribs (no it isn't anything I've done at a Conference - I consider those to be my more proud moments)

How would your workmates describe you?... A ruggedly handsome, debonair, charismatic leader, with a fantastic wit. OR they may add another word in front of 'wit' and refer to me as a 'dictator'.

Editors comment - no editorial licence has been taken in the compilation of this article (unlike the author)