

The Newsletter of the International Federation of Environmental Health



Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year



Editor.

Past Events

Report of the IFEH Council Meeting held at the Tropicana Hotel, Durban, Southern Africa, 29th November 1996. (Courtesy of Eric Foskett)

Present:

Association of Public Health Officers (Kenya)
Chartered Institute of Environmental Health
(England, Wales & Northern Ireland)
Environmental Health Officers Association (Eire)
Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland
South African Institute of Environmental Health
Swedish Environmental Health Officers Association
Teknisk Hygiensk Forum (Norway)
Zimbabwe Environmental Health Practitioners Association

The Chairman welcomed representatives and noted particularly the presence for the first time of members from Kenya and Zimbabwe.

The minutes of the meeting of the Council in Aberdeen on 25th/26th May 1996 were received. Several amendments were incorporated and the minutes were then adopted as a true record of the meeting.

The meeting received a report from the Company Secretary on the declaration by members of any interest that they had with regard to matters being dealt with by the Council. This was debated and then adopted.

The report of the Treasurer was received. This noted the proceedings and recommendations of the Finance Sub group. There was discussion on this report and it and the financial statement were agreed.

The Treasurer submitted a budget for 1997. This was discussed in some detail and, having noted that it appeared to cover all anticipated expenditure, was adopted.

Applications for Membership

Full Membership

The Council received an application for membership from Foreningen af Miljomedarbejdere i Kommunerne (FMK) - the Association of Environmental Health Officers at local community level in Denmark. The organisation has 620 members, all employed in local government. The Council had pleasure in approving the application and welcoming the organisation into membership. It was reported that an application was expected from Botswana, and it was agreed that subject to the officers being satisfied with the application, the Chairman be authorised to admit the Botswana body into membership.

Associate Membership

The Council also received and approved applications for associate membership from Leeds Metropolitan University and the Keep Britain Tidy Group, both based in England.

It was reported that a WHO supported meeting of African countries was to be held in the autumn of 1997, and that SAIIEH, ZEPHA and APHO (Kenya) will meet in Harare early in 1997 to discuss how to make the most of the WHO meeting as a way to broaden the Federation.

The Chairman also reported that she had attended a WHO Europe meeting dealing with the preparation of National Environmental Health Action Plans (NEHAPs), and had taken the opportunity to circulate the 45 countries present with details of the Federation. Already several positive responses had been received. Latvia has announced that they may want to apply for membership.

The Council received an initial and interim report about the constitution of the Federation. In view of the fact that Members had not had the report, which was complex, for a sufficient length of time to study it properly, it was decided to seek views of members and consider the issue at the April 1997 meeting.

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Definition of 'Environmental Health' - A discussion paper was presented by the Chairman who was asked to progress the matter further.

The Council considered a report on the International Faculty Forum and, after discussion, invited the President to accept responsibility for following up the various issues and for there to be a further report as early as possible.

The Council considered the appointment of Officers and Honorary Officers and decided that in view of the constitutional review the appointments should be for one year commencing 1st January 1997.

The following appointments were made:

Officers

President - Michael Halls (REHIS)
Chairman of the Council - Brynley R. Jones (CIEH)

Honorary Officers

Vice Chairman - Victor Andrich (AIEH)
President Elect - Kia Regner (SEHOA)
Executive Secretary - John Stirling (REHIS)
Treasurer - Graham Slee (CIEH)
Co-ordination Officer - Eric Foskett (ENGLAND)
Public Relations Officer - Richard Sprenger (ENGLAND)
Regional Editor/Librarian - Kenneth Stewart (SCOTLAND)
Archivist - Michael Halls (REHIS)

It was decided to record the sincere thanks of the Council to Frederick Osborne for his long service as Treasurer.

The Chairman reported in extensis on her work with other international organisations and in particular emphasised the opportunities which were open for the Federation to work with other international bodies both formally and informally, and she pointed out the likely future route which environmental health organisations were to take and this was entirely consistent with the address by the South African Association's President, the keynote address at the KL Congress and the Federation's Policy Paper 4.

These issues had been incorporated by the Chairman into the Work Programme and the Directory Editor was asked to include them in future editions of the Directory.

The Honorary Co-ordination Officer reported on a number of topics in the work programme. These included the position with aid agencies and tourism. Several good reports had been received on tourism. There was also a report on the progress with the Federation Directory and that it was hoped to have another edition in early 1997.

The Honorary Co-ordination Officer reported on a major study being done on international sporting events and after discussion it was decided that this should become a task for the attention of the Euro/Cypria Regional Group. The Council adopted the report on supporting the WHO 1997 World Health Day and this was assigned as a task for the PRO and the Honorary Co-ordination Officer.

The Honorary Co-ordination Officer had submitted a long report on the need to consider the implications of being involved with the internet. There was a recommendation that responsibility for operating any involvement with the internet should be that of the Directory Editorial Board and it was decided to continue association with the CIEH and WHO but that the offer of Edinburgh University to host the IFEH 'home pages' at no cost be accepted with thanks. The Directory Editor with appropriate consultations to continue negotiations with the University.

The Editorial Board had held a meeting prior to the Council meeting and it was recommended that Mr. Ray Ellard be invited to be a member of the Directory Editorial Board.

Reports were received from various Regional Groups. The Euro/Cypria group reported that it had complied with the suggestion that each group have a regional meeting and it was reported that a scheme involving final year students had been adopted and that it was hoped that the Scandinavia Group would be able to join in.

There had also been a meeting at the NEHA Conference and that the Scandinavia Group had had active communications with each other.

There were explored plans for the African members to meet early in 1997 with a view to forming a regional group.

The Council considered a report from the Honorary Co-ordination Officer suggesting that in view of the long lead time needed to organise World Congresses it was time for the Council to invite bids for further congresses and that the conditions bidders would need to meet, be reviewed and, if need be, revised for Congresses held after 2002. This report was agreed and adopted.



Caring for the Environment in the Interest of World Health

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Report of Eric Foskett on his latest voyage to Southern Africa to attend the IFEH Council Meeting in Durban.

The first event of the gathering took place on Wednesday, 27th November, when we met local colleagues in the very elegant health education conference theatre in the City of Durban Health Department. There were a few short addresses of a welcoming nature and a passionate address by the new President of the South African Institute whose theme might have seemed somewhat revolutionary but was, in fact, an eloquent restatement of the latest thinking on the composition and role of the environmental health team.

This was followed by open forum in which local and international members of the audience took part. That was followed by a barbecue where smoke filled eyes seemed to stimulate conversation. (Not many health education centres actually have a bar and there is a shred of possibility that the bar was a greater stimulus to the conversation than the smoke filled eyes.)

On the following day there should have been a deputation from the IFEH to meet the Minister of Health but the Minister was unfortunately not able to find a slot in her schedule for that day.

Friday, 29th was Council meeting day and the Council sat from 10.00 a.m. until 6.00 p.m. and even ate its lunch while working.

The representative from Zimbabwe presented an apology from Tanzania whose absence could be attributed to an inability to get a visa in time to travel.

This was a most important meeting and it was the first time that Zimbabwe and Kenya had been able to be at a Council meeting, but, in addition, through the hospitality of our South African hosts the actual gathering was long enough for the delegates to get to know each other.

There was a robust effort by the hosts to enable those present not only to meet the other 'new' members of the Council but to enable them to meet local environmental health practitioners and academics in formal and informal gatherings.

Although the agenda was not over long, there were some weighty items for discussion and some important decisions were made. Once again our Swedish Chairman conducted with distinction the eight hour meeting in a language not her mother tongue and thus again out to shame the monoglot Anglo Saxons who only know TWO languages - English spoken softly and English spoken loudly!!

On the Saturday the party was in quite different mood and at 6.30 a.m. was up, bright eyed and bushy tailed, with brains in top gear and bodies in all sorts of gear including an assortment of hats which would have done justice to a Womens Institute Jumble sale. The event was to present ourselves to the wild life, in a visual sense only, in one of the game reserves. This involved a long drive ameliorated only by a stop at what can only be described as a South African out of town shopping mall. The writer, having carelessly left his spare films at home with the kitchen sink was told that he 'might' be able to get films there.... and that was only one thing you could buy... have you ever seen a coffin shop in YOUR local shopping mall?

Then on to breakfast and to animal spotting and photographing. Then lunch in a very pleasant spot overlooking (so we were told) a river teeming with crocagators. We ate our lunch and avoided being lunch for the crocagators.

The afternoon was spent in further animal and bird spotting until a miracle happened. We had a long drive home and a social gathering to attend so we had to make a fairly prompt start back and..... you will never believe this..... the animals which were fairly coy in the morning, were, by half past three in the afternoon, positively lining up to get their photographs taken.



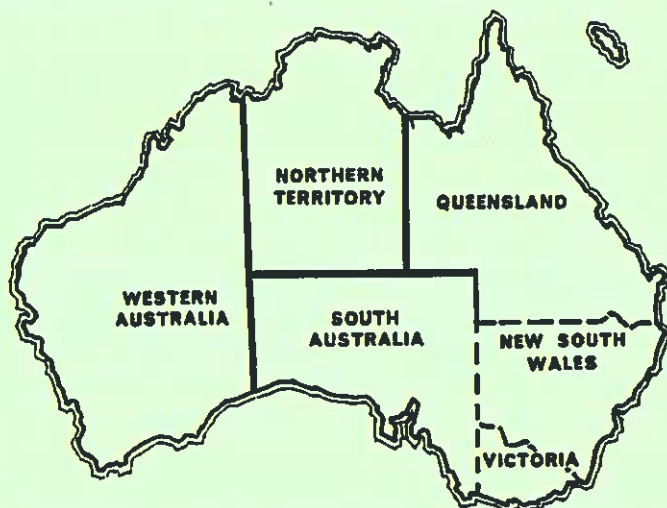
This really was an exciting experience and even if lions and leopards and elephants were shy we really did see a wide variety of David Attenborough's friends.... and if any one tells you that the rhinoceros is an endangered species then simply say 'phooey' my friends saw fifteen in ONE day.... of course, it might have been the City Council out on a picnic but they looked mighty like the real thing.

After the safari all the members present at the Council meeting were entertained very elegantly to dinner by the M.L. Sultam Technikon. This was a very pleasant occasion in which business was adroitly mixed with dining.

Caring for the Environment in the Interest of World Health

'NEWSFLASH - INFORMATION REQUIRED/PROVIDED'

The Australian Institute of Environmental Health receives many enquiries from overseas, particularly the Pacific area, requesting journals, copies of other publications, dates of conferences and general information on environmental health developments in Australia. To cater for these enquiries the Institute has developed an 'Affiliate Member (Overseas)' package at a mere \$63 (Australian dollars) per year (if the applicant already belongs to an Environmental Health professional organisation). For further information including an explanatory pamphlet and membership application form send a fax (without obligation) to Fax: +61 1 2854634 - Chief Executive Officer, Australian Institute of Environmental Health, Canberra, Australia, or Email aiehnat@ozemail.com.au.



CODE OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS OF THE AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH.

'Members will faithfully and diligently carry out their duties in the knowledge that their prime allegiance and duty is to the maintenance and promotion of Environmental Health and the well being of the community.

Members will continually strive to improve and maintain their knowledge in the field of Environmental Health; keeping themselves abreast with changes and developments in the profession.

Members will continually strive to improve professional excellence in the science and practice of Environmental Health.

Members will provide correct professional advice to their employer.

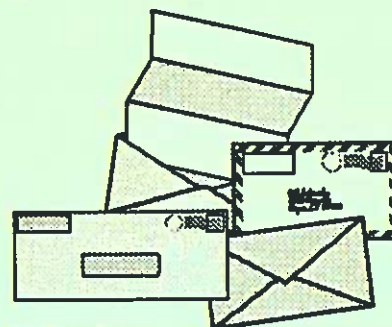
Members will perform their duties without discrimination in the spirit that the highest attainable standards of Public and Environmental Health is a fundamental right of all persons.

Members will conduct themselves so as to uphold the dignity and reputation of their profession and shall at all times avoid such action which could impair their integrity, injure the professional reputation of a member, or bring the Institute into disrepute.

Members will have proper regard to the objects of the Institute and shall not take any action inconsistent with the governing laws of the Institute on professional matters or which conflicts with the objects of the Institute.

Members will not divulge any confidential or privileged information gained by them in the course of their duties.

Change of Officer/Address



Canada

Mr. Greg Thibaud
Secretary CIPHI, PO Box 5367,
Station F, Ottawa, Ontario K2C 3J1.

Mauritius

Mr. Mohammed Ehsan Furreedan
Secretary of Health Inspectorate Cadre of Mauritius
Camp Fouquereaux (Nr. Highlands Mosque)
Phoenix, Republic of Mauritius, Indian Ocean.
Fax: +61 6337 1395

Future Council Meetings

The Council considered an invitation to hold the second meeting in 1997 in Tasmania, Australia, in conjunction with the AIEH National Conference between 19th and 24th October. It was agreed to accept this invitation. The programme for future Council meetings was therefore:

14th/15th April 1997:

Los Angeles in conjunction with Californian EHA Annual Educational Symposium.

19th/24th October 1997:

Launceston, Tasmania in conjunction with the AIEH National Conference.

7th/12th June 1998:

Stockholm in conjunction with the 5th World Congress.

Future World Congresses

Reports on the organisation of the forthcoming Congresses in Sweden (7th/12th June 1998), Oslo (5th/9th June 2000), and San Diego, California (20th/27th April 2002) were received, and progress in all cases appeared to be satisfactory.

The Southern African Institute reported that they were preparing a bid for the 2004 Congress and referred to the visit by delegates prior to the meeting to the new Durban International Convention Centre, which was currently their preferred venue.

It was agreed that improved documentation for potential bidders and conference organisers was a priority, and a report would be presented to the next meeting by the President and Chairman.

Future Events

Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors
National Education Conference.

28th/30th April 1997 - Banff, Alberta.

To be held at the Rimrock Resort Hotel.

Contact: Gary Butler,

CIPHI Conference 97, Box 72045, 1600-90 Avenue SW,
Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2V 5H9. Fax: (403) 938-2783.

Australian Institute of Environmental Health
1997 National Conference.

20th/24th October 1997 - Launceston, Tasmania, Australia.

Contact: Adele Gliddon,

PO Box 172, Launceston, Tas.7250, Australia.

Thanks to Barrie Whitehead for sending the following excerpts of British Military Officer fitness reports:



This man is depriving a village somewhere of an idiot.

Works well when under constant supervision and cornered like a rat in a trap.

His men would follow him anywhere - but only out of curiosity.



I would not breed from this officer.

This officer is not so much of a has-been, but more a definitely won't be.



When she opens her mouth, it seems that this is only to change whichever foot was previously in there.

He would be out of his depth in a car park puddle.



He has carried out each and every one of his duties to his entire satisfaction.

Technically sound, but socially impossible.



This officer reminds me very much of a gyroscope, always spinning round at a frantic pace, but not really going anywhere.

This young lady has delusions of adequacy.



When he joined my ship, this officer was something of a granny, since then he has aged considerably.

Since my last report he has reached rock bottom, and he has started to dig.



He has the wisdom of youth, and the energy of old age.

She sets low personal standards and then consistently fails to achieve of them.



This Medical Officer has used my ship to carry his genitals from port to port, and my officers to carry him from bar to bar.

The only ship I would recommend this man for is citizenship.



This officer should go far - and the sooner he starts, the better.

Magazine Articles

Many thanks for those of you sending magazines. Please send details of future annual congresses or other major events.

Environmental Health Review - Australia

Editor: Adrean O'Loughlin, PO Box 77, Deakin, West ACT 2600.

Vol.25 - Issue 2 - May 1996

1. Campylobacter Case Control Study
2. Noarlunga Industrial Chemicals Project
(The management of Health and Safety Risks posed in the handling, storage, transportation and disposal of industrial chemicals.)
3. The Evidence About Immunisation and Homeopathy
4. Recycling - An Economic Challenge
5. What's Eating South Sydney?
(A policy for safe, accessible and affordable food.)
6. Chemical Food Safety in the 1990's
7. Suspected Chemical Foodborne Outbreak
8. An Investigation of Suspected Poisoning in Children Following Contact with Blue-Green Algae in a Poorly Drained Suburban Yard.

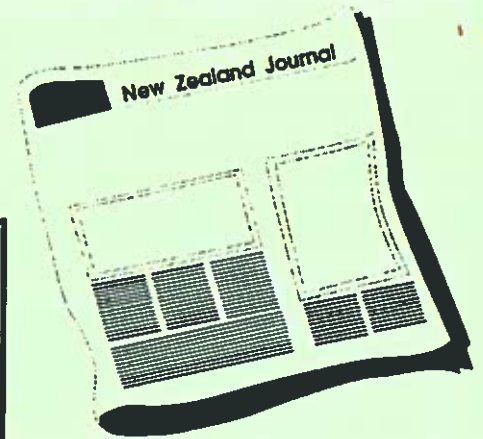


Volume 25: Issue 3 - September 1996

1. Lysteria - Spreading the Word

Volume 25: Issue 4 - November 1996

1. Evaluation of Coffs Harbour's Integrated Domestic Waste System
2. Creating Healthy Residential Environments
3. Towards an Environmental Repair - Lake Ainsworth, NSW
4. An Outbreak of Salmonella Typhimurium Associated with a Brisbane Restaurant
5. Food Handler Training and Accreditation
6. Food Safety Issues in the 1990s.
Food Safety Perspectives



Environmental Health Scotland

**The Chief Executive: John Frater, REHIS,
3 Manor Place, Edinburgh, Scotland EH3 7DH.**

November 1996

1. Railway Noise Survey Assessment of Proposed Residential Development
2. Salmonellosis from Domestic Fish Tank Water
3. Health and Safety Enforcement Responsibility 'Passing the Buck'
4. Meat Technicians
5. From the Courts
(A collection of brief reports of court cases)

Environmental Health

**Editor: Claire Brown, CIEH, Chadwick Court,
15 Hatfields, London SE1 8DJ.**

Volume 104/10 - October 1996

1. CIEH Food Policy Statement
2. The Housing Act 1996
3. Consistent Noise Control for Pop Concerts
4. Meeting Standards in the Water Cooler Industry
5. Mosquito Nuisance and Control in Britain - Results of New Research
6. Lead Paint: Still a Health Hazard in the UK?

Volume 104/11 - November 1996

1. Restore Peace to our Neighbourhoods
(Noise Nuisance and Control)
2. Indoor Air Quality and Health -
Can we make a Difference?
3. Advice on Indoor Pollutants
4. Gatwick:
Working for
Sustainability

