

President's Message

Welcome the final edition of Healthy Focus for 2016, packed with great information and articles. My name is Sarah Annells, and I am your new EHPA president. I am excited to be leading the fastest growing professional organisation for Environmental Health Practitioners in Australia.

I am currently Coordinator of Environmental Health at Melton City Council and have previously worked at Moorabool for 10 years. Before moving to Victoria I worked in food safety in private industry in NSW and as an EHO in Tasmania after graduating from Flinders University.

2016 has been a huge year for EHPA, with the Lorne Symposium a particular highlight. We also ran forums on Food Safety, Allergens, Emergency Management, Hoarding and Water and submitted papers on key issues relating to Environmental Health.

I would like to thank our SIG Conveners, Regional Group Secretaries and Board Members for all their hard work this year.

I would particularly like to express my thanks to Louis Papageorgiou, who worked tirelessly as President for the last 3 years, and Bernadet Ferraro, our amazing Company Secretary.

2017 is shaping up to be our biggest year yet, with a comprehensive program of professional development and networking opportunities planned.

On behalf of EHPA I would like to wish you all a safe and happy Christmas and New Years and I look forward to seeing you in 2017.

Sarah Annells

President

Environmental Health Professionals Australia

Upcoming Events – Mark Your Diary Now!

28 February 2016 – EHPA Annual Food Forum, Moonee Valley Racecourse, Moonee Ponds.

31 March 2016 - City of Greater Dandenong public health EHO information day – Culturally Diverse Food Traders

EHPA Tamper Evident Tape



Can be used for food sampling or sealing off an area or a fridge etc.

30mm wide x 50 metre roll, perforated & numbered.

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\$27.50
per roll

<http://ehpa.org.au/shop/>

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The NorthWest Metro Regional Group in Action

On the 7 September 2016 at the City of Moreland the Group held one of their quarterly meetings. The Group Secretary is Roger Sayce from the City of Melbourne who has been overseeing the group since June 2015.

Roger took on the role to collaborate and network with other colleagues and to ensure a consistent approach between Councils. Many of you are familiar with Roger as he has been MC for EHPA's symposiums for the last 2 years.

There was great attendance at the meeting with an interesting agenda planned with guest speakers and regular items such as the REHO report, EHPA SIG reports and Board Updates, Analysts Report etc.

First speaker was Paul Goldsmith from the Department who gave a presentation on "Allergens - How to React". The presentation was very informative and included information on allergen management systems, hidden allergens in labelling and food recalls.

Nadia Nicolson an EHO from the City of Moreland gave a presentation on a rooming house investigation she was involved in that was conducted with Council's Building Department. She gave advice on how to carry out an investigation when two departments of Council are involved. Council did proceed with prosecution in this matter.

Finally around the table raised some interesting issues from clandestine lab clean ups, eggs on premises, street trader, prosecutions etc.



City of Whittlesea EHOs - Spiros Kynigopoulos, Sue Petrovski & Zac Osman



City of Moreland EHOs, Stephanie Wellicome, Ken Siah and Vicky Lambropoulos



Nadia Nicolson
presenting her rooming house investigation

Regional Groups are run frequently and are a fantastic resource for keeping abreast of interesting issues.

Contact Bernadet to make sure you don't miss the next one.

P: 03 9438 5960
E: info@ehpa.org.au

Wrap up of the 2016 National Symposium

This year's Symposium was held on the 12-14th October, 2016 at the Mantra, located in the iconic seaside town of Lorne.

Just being there put's a smile on everyone's face which is always a good way to start a Symposium.



Andrew Mackintosh LFEHPA (Ret). With Rebecca Burton - Berri Barmerra Council



(L-R) Ray Christy - City of Knox, Fiona Jones - DHHS, Roger Sayce - City of Melbourne, Aaron Kennett - Southern Grampians Shire, Laura Butera - DHHS

We started on the Wednesday night with welcome drinks which is always a good way for old friends and colleagues to catch up. An enjoyable and relaxing way to reconnect and become acquainted prior to a very busy three day schedule.

Over the three days we had



Welcome to Country - Brett Clarke

some amazing and inspirational presentations, from our awesome Keynote Speakers - **Anne Astin** (the Fonterra Incident), **Lynette Lowndes**, who could forget her inspirational presentation



Full House, 220 attendees across the 3 days.



Anne Astin, Day 1 Keynote Speaker



Lynette Lowdnes, Day 2 Keynote Speaker



Professor Martyn Jeggo, Day 3 Keynote



Pier De Carlo, Acting Director Health Protection doing the Day 2 introduction and DHHS update

about her journey from rural victoria as an EHO to working with WHO and as an international consultant around the world, and Professor **Martyn Jeggo** (One Health).

Every day was jam packed with valuable information, of course we had some hiccups, we didn't know the road to Wye River was still going to be closed from landslides so we couldn't take buses up there for the field trip but we worked around that, something most EHO's are very good at!

And, of course, I can't end an article about the Symposium without talking about the Dinner, you know what they say, work hard, play hard, well that just about describes the Dinner!

This year's theme was Sand, Surf & Sea and once again the costumes were amazing, it was great to see the effort that everyone puts in to their costume, it certainly adds to the night. We had a great band "Test Pilot Molly" who really rocked the room.



(L-R) Adam Lee, Rhonda Gambetta, Surf Coast Shire

So, at the end of the last session on Friday, we all went home tired, but bursting with new ideas and knowledge to take back to the workplace and hopefully looking forward to doing it all again next year.

I would like to thank the Committee (**great job, everyone**) and all the speakers and volunteers who gave their time before and during the symposium, we rely on our volunteers and DHHS colleagues to make this event a success. We are also very appreciative of our members who support us by attending our professional training events.

A big thanks go to our Symposium partner, the Department of Health & Human Services. With their support we are able to offer professional development events at very affordable prices.

And, of course, a big thank you to all our sponsors for their continued support.

For more information on the symposium: The presentations and symposium photo's have been uploaded to our website www.ehpa.org.au

PS: The 2017 Symposium will be held in central Melbourne, so if you have an idea or topic you would like on the program, let us know, its your Symposium be a part of it!



(L-R) Teresa Arnup – Loddon Shire, Houa Tia – DHHS, Kelsey Corrie – Gannawarra Shire, Melissa Wilson – Buloke Shire)



Louis Papageorgiou congratulating Ross Cairns on his retirement



Back Row: Paul Bond, Rebecca Owins, Robert Meagher, Ross Cairns, Callum Morrison
Front Row: Lisa Giese, Natalie Stewart, Kellie Jones, Ann Mooney, Rebecca Burton



Also, congratulations to the winner of the Macpherson & Kelley Hamper, Julian Goldacre - Roe Health, Corrigin Shire, WA. Hopefully the excess baggage bill wasn't too high!



PHOTOS



PROCEEDINGS



SLIDE SHOW

EHPA- Maddocks Awards Winners

The 2016 EHPA – Maddocks Awards were announced on Day 2 at the National Symposium in Lorne.

The Award prizes were presented John Rantino, Partner, Maddocks Lawyers.

The Young Environmental Health Professional Award was not awarded at the time as we did not have any applicants, but since that time I can report that we had seven nominations for the Award.

And, I can now announce that the winner of the Young Environmental Health Professional is **Kelsey Corrie** from Gannawarra Shire, Kelsey will be presented with her Award at the Food Forum to be held in Melbourne on February 28th 2017.

Congratulations to all our very deserving Award winners.



Individual Excellence and Innovation Award
Callum Morrison, Benalla Rural City Council



Academic Excellence in final year of Undergraduate Environmental Health
Lachlan Chapman



Robert L Handby Award for Team Excellence
City of Casey which was accepted by Lisa Balaban on behalf of the City of Casey

The Board of Environmental Health Professionals Australia would like to thank all our members for their support during the year, especially the Regional Group Secretaries and Special Interest Group Convenors.

We hope that you all have a wonderful Christmas and a happy New Year.

The EHPA Office will be closed from Friday 23rd December 2016 - and will reopen on Wednesday 18th January 2017

Northern Ireland food retailers forced to display hygiene ratings

Cafés, restaurants, supermarkets and other food retailers located in Northern Ireland now must display a hygiene ratings sticker showing patrons just how hygienic their business really is.

The Food Hygiene Rating Scheme, which has been voluntary in Northern Ireland since 2011, is now compulsory with food retailers forced to display their rating after a local council inspection is performed.

The rating is a score out of five with zero meaning urgent improvements are necessary and five being the establishment has very good standards.

Restaurants, pubs, cafes, takeaways, supermarkets, hospitals, care homes, schools and any other business which sell food must display their rating.

Major step forward in providing hygiene information

Head of Local Authority Policy and Delivery at the Food Standards Agency in Northern Ireland, Michael Jackson, said this was a major step forward in providing people with hygiene information.

“Any food business should be able to achieve and maintain a 5 rating as it only requires compliance with hygiene requirements set down in law,” Jackson said.

“We know that display of stickers has been low in the voluntary scheme, but with this new legislation people will soon be able to check the rating by looking for the sticker and choose somewhere that has a rating of 3 or above. If you can’t see the sticker, then ask the staff. Under the Act staff must tell you the rating if asked,” he stated.

The sticker must be located in a place it can be easily spotted before the consumer enters to purchase food.



Compulsory ratings displays are already mandatory in Wales whilst it is voluntary in England.

Research has shown that since the mandatory system was introduced in Wales there has been an increased positive impact on hygiene standards as compared to England.

Source: <http://www.ausfoodnews.com.au>
Oct 2016

Principal Payout - Queensland Principals are Compensated for Salmonella Outbreak

At a meeting to discuss the future of primary and secondary schools, 1200 of Queensland's top educators fell ill after attending a conference at the Brisbane Convention centre in late February, 2015.



After being served morning tea, lunch and finger food, almost a quarter of the principals fell ill - becoming victims of one of the state's worst salmonella outbreaks ever recorded.

Dozens were hospitalised from the incident and 18 months later, the state school educators are still recovering. Many of the principals were taken out of work for a significant period of time - having a serious impact on themselves, their staff and their students. Some of the principals filed for compensation to account for this loss.

Principals Receive Compensation

For what are described as 'intestinal infectious diseases', Work Cover Queensland accepted 75 claims from principals affected by the incident. In total, more than half a million dollars has been awarded to the principals with compensation being drawn from tax payer funding.

Queensland Law Society President, Bill Potts states, "Claimants only have to prove two things. One is that they have to prove that they were at work and secondly they have to prove that they were injured as part of that work". The claims made by the principals present at the convention ranged from \$75 to just under \$94,000.

Salmonella Outbreaks in Australia

This is unfortunately not the first instance of serious salmonella outbreak in Australia and is evidence of poor food safety procedures in practice. Salmonella bacteria is often spread through meat, poultry and eggs but can be easily avoided if the correct preparation is put in place.

The Brisbane Convention Centre outbreak joins the list of thousands of easily avoided food-borne illness cases every year. Already within 2016, salmonella has been suspected within Queensland Rockmelon as well as other isolated incidents within Victoria.

Food poisoning outbreaks have a serious impact on the individuals effected and those around them. To avoid the spread of food-borne illness within Australia education is vital.

The Australian government has various rules and regulations in place to prevent the spread of food related illnesses.

AUGUST 16, 2016
BY JACK GERAGHTY