

SIAN

Convenors' Report

We are writing this report from Methven in mid-Canterbury, during a respite from the inaugural National Rural Tourism Conference. Agnes Gannon, a keynote speaker at the conference, continues to inspire people from rural areas with her vision and examples of tourism driven by the rural community. Rural tourism is based on the intent of sustainable development.

This is a good time to ponder and put on paper what we want to achieve as an association this year. We will continue to broaden our membership base. To do that we need to make the organisation more relevant to Maori, people involved with community development and to impact assessment practitioners in general. A challenge!

Our organisational systems are ever improving. We have an active core group from last year's

conference, a new editor in place for SIAN, and have just appointed a part-time administrative assistant. This will mean better maintenance of membership lists and records, improved production and distribution of SIAN and conference proceedings, and more opportunity for the organisation to respond to government initiatives and policy changes.

Organisation for the IAIA conference in Christchurch (April 19-24, 1998) continues. There is a lot of activity underway, as reported elsewhere in this newsletter. We are seeking input to the programme, sponsorship and displays, and other conference activities. If you would like to be involved, or have any ideas, please get in touch with either of us.

The ASA conference for 1997 is being planned as *(continues overleaf)*

SIAN Layout

Many thanks to Rachel Fogarty who lifted SIAN layout to new heights while layout editor during 1996.

ASA now needs someone else to carry out the layout role for SIAN. The layout editor does the job of desktop publishing the copy supplied by the editor into a publication. This can be quite an interesting task given the sort of material published in SIAN. Ideally we need someone with good access to email.

If you are interested, please contact James Newell (email : jnewell@mera.actrix.gen.nz, ph : 4-499 8438, fax : 4-499 8004, mail : PO Box 2445, Wellington) .

This issue...

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Theme Next Issue :
Changes in Communications

well. This year we have an exciting new initiative. Joint planning is underway between ASA and the Community Development Association for a conference in Canterbury. There will probably both be joint activities and others targeted to the needs of each association, although participants will have the opportunity to take in the whole programme. We will inform you of dates, location and themes as soon as possible.

To make the organisation more bicultural, the newly formed ASA Treaty subgroup, (introduced in SIAN 41) continues its work. It has recently met to discuss the ASA conference and has written a discussion paper which is being distributed to a range of people. The discussion paper seeks people's ideas about how this year's conference themes could best address the needs and interests of both Maori and others concerned about impact assessment and development from a Maori perspective. This discussion will also contribute to a central theme of impact assessment and indigenous peoples at IAIA'98.

The organisation will continue to investigate and lobby for the institutionalisation and practice of social assessment within central government and territorial authorities. As part of this task we plan to continue to build links with relevant agencies and groups. We are also involved with our Australian colleagues in the organisation of a workshop and development of a book around this theme for Australia and New Zealand, as reported elsewhere in this newsletter.

Another ongoing activity is to encourage and support local initiatives and groups. The Canterbury group continues to be the most active, with a regular programme of professional development. Activities are also being planned for Wellington. If you have any bright ideas for your region, please let us know whether the Core Group can assist in any way.

**Cheers,
Julie and Nick**

UPDATE - PLANNING FOR IAIA'98 IN CHRISTCHURCH

The 19th annual meeting of the International Association for Impact Assessment will be held in the Christchurch Convention Centre, 19-24 April 1998. This is an exciting event for ASA, as the New Zealand Chapter of IAIA. It will be a unique opportunity for those interested in environmental (including social) assessment and management in New Zealand to meet, present and discuss their ideas on impact assessment in an international context. Many planning activities are now underway.

The conference's working title is: Sustainability and the Role of Impact Assessment in the Global Economy: Excellence, Innovation and Adaptability.

The major working themes are:

- * Impact assessment in policy and planning (including strategic impact assessment, policy assessment and legislative developments);
- * Effective devolution of impact assessment (including experiences in multilateral states, IA in business management systems, local government experiences and roles for NGOs); and
- * Application of impact assessment to biodiversity and sustainability (including environmental assessment in

the Antarctic, tourism development and planning of special 'events', and assessment of rural development projects).

There will also be two cross-cutting themes:

- * Gender and impact assessment; and
- * Indigenous peoples and impact assessment.

There will be pre-conference training sessions and special meetings, including a proposed special meeting on the RMA. The Conference Programme Committee is soliciting ideas for workshop sessions to be organised within the above theme areas. The committee is being led by Martin Ward, ph (04) 499 0136. If you would like to assist with the development of the conference programme, please contact him.

In addition, part of the conference will comprise various technical visits, and during the conference there will be commercial, educational, public agency and NGO displays. If you have any ideas on these or any other aspects of the conference, or would like your organisation to be involved, please get in touch with either Julie Warren, (04) 473 3071, who is co-ordinating sponsorship and networking with other organisations, or Nick Taylor, (03) 313 8458 who is leading the local arrangements committee.

Blackboard

Social and Economic Assessment in the context of Planning and Environmental Law

April 9 1997 from 4 pm to 6.30 pm at 152 The Terrace, Wellington: Use of Social Assessment as a planning tool; Use of demographic statistics for developing policy; Use of economic assessments in planning. **Contact:** Rachel Dryden,

NZ Ecological Society Conference: Biodiversity Now

June 29 - July 3 at Victoria University, Wellington. Jointly run by Victoria University Extension Department and NZ Ecological Association.

Armidale International Conference on Sustainability of Rural Systems

July 5-12 1997 at University of New England, NSW: Sustaining Rural Systems in the Context of Global Change. **Contact:** Prof. Tony Sorenson or Roger Epps, Dept. of Geography and Planning, UNE, Armidale, 2351, Australia. Fax: 0061-67-733-030. E-mail: igu97@metz.une.edu.au

Geographical Education Conference 1997

July 6-9 (NZ Geographical Society) at University of Waikato: Differences, Directions, Dimensions. **Contact:** David Vincent, Conference Co-ordinator, Dept. of Geography, University of Waikato, Private Bag 3105, Hamilton. Tel (07) 856 2889. Fax (07) 838 4633. E-mail: peace@waikato.ac.nz

Resource Management Law Association Conference 1997

August 27-29 in Queenstown. A series of speeches, seminars and workshops on: SIA; tourism development and environment; indigenous peoples; conservation and heritage; mediation and consultation; economic instruments in environmental law; and recent trends in environmental law in NZ and Australia. **Contact:** Carol Helmink, c/- Bell Gully, Auckland, ph (09) 309 0859.

12th New Zealand International Conference on Asian Studies

26-29 November 1997
Massey University

ASA TREATY GROUP

At ASA's 1996 Conference several members agreed to continue to meet to foster a stronger Treaty of Waitangi analysis within the Association and to have this reflected in our conferences. Kate Abel, James Barnes, Margaret Booker, Kath Boswell, Roy Hoerara, and Margie Scotts have contributed to date, but additional members are most welcome.

We have suggested that the 1997 Conference should canvass issues to do with assessing social, environmental and economic impacts on indigenous cultures. The Treaty Group will distribute a brief questionnaire on behalf of ASA to get an indication of whether the suggested theme Assessing Impacts on Indigenous Cultures and Cross Cultural Assessment would attract people to the ASA conference (and increase ASA membership).

While this or a similar theme is important in its own right, we believe that it could also be a worthwhile preparation for the 1998 IAIA Conference being hosted by ASA.

Please see the questionnaire at the back of this newsletter.

**Kath Boswell
for Treaty Group**

RURAL TOURISM RESEARCH UPDATE

The Centre for Research, Evaluation and Social Assessment (CRESA) and Taylor Baines and Associates are carrying out a two year research programme on rural tourism. There are three parts to the research:

- * developing a database of rural tourism operators in New Zealand;
- * surveying rural tourism operators;
- * carrying out eight case studies of communities involved in rural tourism.

To date most of the effort has been concentrated on the data base and preparing for the survey. The three main parts of the research are outlined in more detail below.

Rural tourism database

The rural tourism database has been developed with the assistance of visitor information centres throughout the country. These include all the VIN network as well as other information providers. They have provided us with information about rural tourism operators in their areas and this information is being supplemented with that collected by the researchers. So far there are more than 2,500 entries, with more or less even numbers in the North and South Islands. Although accommodation makes up the biggest group of operators so far, there is also a wide range of other tourism products, particularly retail outlets selling crafts and activities such as soft adventure.

A survey of rural tourism operators

We are preparing to send out questionnaires to a sample of

rural tourism operators drawn from the database. The questionnaire, which is almost ready for piloting, asks operators details about:

- * the sort of tourism products they provide;
- * the domestic and international visitors they host;
- * how they went about setting up their businesses;
- * how the tourism business might relate to other business activities such as farming;
- * the range of benefits they gain from the business;
- * the numbers of people employed by the business.

The questionnaire will be posted out in late April.

Case studies

We are also about to begin a series of case studies. Based on eight case studies (4 in the North Island and 4 in the South Island) the research will:

- * determine the social and economic effects of tourism development at a local level;
- * determine the opportunities and constraints for rural communities developing sustainable tourism development;
- * develop ways to assist rural communities in strategic tourism planning and management.

You can contact the researchers, if you need further information, by telephoning Julie Warren at (04) 473 3071 or Nick Taylor at (03) 313 8458, or writing to: CRESA, PO Box 3538, Wellington.

RURAL AUSTRALIA: TOWARDS 2000 CONFERENCE 2-4 JULY 1997

This will be a major conference dealing with rural Australia. Social Impact Assessment will be one of the issues addressed.

This will be a landmark conference, providing a genuine opportunity to enter into policy debate about the future of rural Australia. It comes at a time of economic crisis in rural and remote areas, when rural people are concerned about cutbacks in services, when farmers are finding the struggle increasingly difficult, when there are concerns about the environment, about conflict over Native Title claims, about population decline in rural communities and regional centres, about health and education issues, and about the future.

What is the extent of the crisis in rural and remote communities? What are the strengths and resources of these communities? How can the issues facing rural and remote Australia be dealt with openly and effectively? These are

only some of the questions that need to be addressed. We intend to build on the experience of other excellent conferences on rural communities held over the last few years. This conference is timely for constructive debate and policy recommendations which will address rural and remote issues for the future.

This conference will provide a unique opportunity for a broad assessment of the problems and possibilities confronting rural Australia as we enter the 21st Century. It will bring together a range of interests and expertise from the natural sciences, the social sciences, industry, the community, and government. Issues for multi-disciplinary discussion include sustainable industry, the environment, and rural communities and populations.

The conference will examine the various influences on rural Australia toward and beyond the year 2000. It will take account of factors such as globalisation and the inter-

relationships between rural and urban Australia, as well as the processes which contribute to both the decline and vitality of rural areas. The focus will be on three themes - Rural Communities and Populations, Economic Development, and Natural Resources. Plenary sessions will explore the inter-relationships between these three themes. Following on from the plenary sessions, panel sessions will be structured to provide a forum for presenting specific issues.

The conference will also provide an opportunity to develop an action agenda to address important and urgent issues facing rural Australia now and in the future. The third day will be devoted to formulating policy options and action steps to achieve practical outcomes from discussion and debate.

Participation is invited from academics, researchers, policy-makers and practitioners (including primary producers, scientists, and professionals). The conference is intended to be a broad-based meeting of industry representatives, health and human service workers, academics, scientists, environmentalists, politicians, government workers, professionals, economists and all citizens who are concerned with (and affected by) issues facing rural, regional and remote areas of Australia.

SECTIONS

The conference will incorporate three main sections:

1) *Rural Communities and Populations*, co-ordinated by Dr Max Staples, will consider a diverse range of topics affecting rural communities and their populations. Some of the areas addressed will be health, education, criminal justice, families, gender, multi-culturalism, citizenship, community relations, rural social policy, rural practice in the human services, community development, and culture. This list is only illustrative and workshop sessions for this and other sections will be convened according to the interests and contributions of participants.

Inquiries: Max Staples, ph (069) 33 2747, fax (069) 33 2293
e-mail: mstaples@csu.edu.au

2. *Economic Development*, co-ordinated by Tom Murphy, will address the major economic challenges currently facing rural Australia. These challenges include the impact of economic rationalist policy approaches, the globalisation of the world economy, and environmental problems. Papers addressing these challenges are likely to focus on rural towns, labour markets, sustainable agriculture, rural manufacturing, mining, tourism, structural change and regional modelling.

Inquiries: Tom Murphy, ph (063) 38 4435, fax (063) 38 4769
e-mail: tmurphy@csu.edu.au

3. *Natural Resources*, co-ordinated by Mr David Chisholm and Dr Robyn Watts, will deal with the issues of air, land and water quality as they effect agriculture and ecosystems within the Australian environment, farms and the relationship to the Australian ecosystem, and issues in Landcare, climate change, protected areas, flora and fauna. These natural resource issues are closely related to rural community populations and economic development. Speakers and participants should consider this inter-relationship.

Inquiries: David Chisholm, ph (069) 33 2402, fax (069) 33 737

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or: Robyn Watts, ph (069) 33 2329, fax (069) 33 2737

e-mail: rwatts@csu.edu.au

Social Impact Assessment Panel

Following the plenary sessions, the conference will break into panels. Offers of papers are welcome. Edited contributions made by participants in each of these areas will be published as Conference Proceedings. A large number of panels will be run, covering issues pertinent to the three major themes described above. Of particular interest to ASA members will be a panel on social impact assessment in rural areas. This panel will be convened by Frank Vanclay. Papers covering any issues relating to the use of SIA in rural areas are welcome. Points to reflect on include: Are there special issues relating to the use of SIA in rural areas? Are there special methodological difficulties? Is the nature of the social variables affected by impacts fundamentally different - do the checklists for SIA have to be modified? Is the notion of "community" romanticised in rural areas for political ends, or are there rural communities that are more tangible than groups of people in urban areas? These and other issues can all be considered. Case studies of specific SIAs in rural areas are also welcome.

For further information, please visit the Web pages:

<http://www.csu.edu.au/research/crsr/conferen/towards2000/towards2000.htm>

or contact:

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INSTITUTIONALISING SOCIAL ASSESSMENT IN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND - WORKSHOP AND BOOK PROPOSAL

Following my departure from Queensland's Social Impact Assessment Unit, I have been reflecting upon the significant barriers facing the successful institutionalisation of Social Assessment (SA) in natural resource planning and impact assessment processes. At the same time, I have become acutely aware of the very limited literature on the subject, despite the wealth of experience chalked up by Australian and New Zealand Social Assessment practitioners over the past decade.

Coinciding with this has been encouragement from a number of ASA members (particularly Nick Taylor, Colin Goodrich and Gerard Fitzgerald) for greater interaction with their Australian counterparts.

The result is a proposal for a joint Australian / New Zealand project to put together a book exploring the experiences of practitioners who have played significant roles in integrating SA into the mainstream focus of resource use planning and impact assessment. We are hoping to structure the writing of the book in a way that will allow these people to get together to discuss institutionalisation issues at a Practitioners' Workshop in South East Queensland (near Noosa) in September this year. The long term plan is to have the book ready for publication at the IAIA Conference in Christchurch in April 1998.

The practitioners' workshop is being planned as a two-day event at a relatively low cost retreat with appropriate work facilities. It will be an informal meeting of contributors, focused on making the draft book a truly integrated effort. The meeting will centre on three core things:

- 1) the main part of the workshop will be based on using the draft chapter topics as the basis for "practice" workshops, providing an opportunity to test the chapters and to build the cohesiveness of the themes;
- 2) we will also work as a group to polish the introduction of the book, and more importantly to establish and explore the critical conclusions that we want to make;
- 3) finally, a little time should be spent discussing whether co-ordinated effort should go into establishing an Australian SA Association.

The book will be edited by myself and Nick Taylor.

Objective of the Book

The book will be the first significant attempt to outline and analyse how Social Assessment has been institutionalised in resource management activities in Australia and New Zealand. It will focus on drawing out lessons and possibili-

ties for resource management agencies across different levels of government and within different industry sectors (e.g. looking at how mining companies are integrating SA skills into their corporate structures or IA consultancy teams). The objectives include:

- 1) exploring and comparing the wealth of institutional arrangements in place for integrating SA into resource planning and assessment in Australia and New Zealand;
- 2) critically evaluating the success of attempts to institutionalise SA and identifying barriers to its institutionalisation;
- 3) drawing upon the experiences of practitioners and theoreticians to establish common lessons for resource management agencies in:
 - * establishing planning and assessment systems that integrate SA; and
 - * monitoring the effectiveness of these institutional arrangements.

Timetable

The first working drafts of chapters should be made available one working week prior to the September workshop. Chapters will then be revised and reviewed, and their final completion is currently planned for the 31st of December 1997. We are hoping to publish with a reputable publisher, but will not forward a prospectus until contributors have been confirmed. I hope the time-frame is not too short; please let me know if you have any concerns.

Structure

The structure of the book is outlined below. This list is subject to the proposed authors accepting their invitation to contribute. Opportunities for New Zealand authors to join the project are noted.

PART I: INTRODUCTION

Chapter 1 Purpose and objective of the book. SA in resource management in Australia and New Zealand: an overview

Chapter 2 SA in resource management in NZ: an insti-

	tutional overview (Expressions of interest invited from NZ Authors)	Chapter 15	Australian agricultural development sector
Chapter 3	SA in resource management in Australia: An institutional overview	Chapter 16	NZ tourism sector
PART II:	INSTITUTIONALISING SOCIAL ASSESSMENT AT THE FEDERAL AND CENTRAL GOVERNMENT LEVELS	Chapter 17	Other NZ sector (e.g. Agriculture) (Suggestions and expressions of interest invited)
Chapter 4	Central government attempts to institutionalise SA in NZ (Expressions of interest invited)	Chapter 18	Institutionalising SA in natural resource management research institutions
Chapter 5	The Commonwealth EPA and SA	Chapter 19	Consultancy companies doing planning and impact assessment
Chapter 6	SA in official development assistance in Australia and NZ	Part VI:	Conclusions
PART III:	INSTITUTIONALISING SA AT THE STATE AND REGIONAL LEVEL	Chapter 20	The way forward
Chapter 7	Queensland's Social Impact Assessment Unit		
Chapter 8	The Western Australian Social Assessment Unit		
Chapter 9	The New South Wales Social Policy Unit		
Chapter 10	Regional councils under the Resource Management Act in NZ (Expressions of interest invited)		
PART IV:	INSTITUTIONALISING SOCIAL ASSESSMENT IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT		
Chapter 11	New Zealand overview and/or case study (Expressions of interest invited)		
Chapter 12	Australian overview and/or case study		
Part V:	Institutionalising SA in Industry and Research Sectors: Selected Industry Overviews and Case Studies		
Chapter 13	Australian mining		
Chapter 14	NZ energy development or mining (Expressions of interest invited)		

If you want to take part

I think the book and associated workshop present an exciting opportunity to get Australian and New Zealand practitioners in Social Assessment in natural resource management together in a practical way. We would very much like people to participate in this process, both by contributing a chapter to the book and/or by participating in the September workshop. Attendance at the workshop is not essential for contributors (or visa versa), but we think it is a great opportunity to get some focused discussion on these issues. Numbers at the workshop will be limited, so if you are interested please let us know soon. If you are interested as a possible author or in participating at the workshop, please contact Nick Taylor: ph (03) 313 8459, e-mail n.taylor@chch.planet.org.nz

**Alan Dale,
CSIRO Tropical Agriculture**

Internet Home Page

Purpose of this Column

The Internet is a new medium being used by an increasing number of ASA members. The purpose of this section of SIAN is to provide a forum for the exchange of information on Internet resources of interest to ASA members. If you know of Internet resources or services that you think would be of interest, then please drop a line to Nick Taylor (n.taylor@chch.planet.org.nz) or James Newell (jnewell@mera.actrix.gen.nz).

Call for Help with Summarising Mail List Discussions for SIAN

We don't all have access to the Internet, and not all of those who do, have the time to read or even filter postings for material of interest. Summaries of the IAIA_SIA mail list and other important traffic would be useful. This is something that could easily be carried out by a group of people who use the Internet, working together before each SIAN issue (say three to four times a year). Each person would need good access to e-mail. If you are interested in helping make this happen then drop me a line at "jnewell@mera.actrix.gen.nz".

IAIA_SIA

In this issue's "Home Page" I have put together a summary of some of the recent discussion on one of the list server groups of most importance to ASA, the IAIA_SIA mail list discussion group. I think the summary indicates the quality and relevance of the SIA mail list discussion to those interested in SIA locally.

This list server has been fairly active over the last couple of months. The discussion has centred around the following (figures indicate number of postings):

- * Pressing Issues / Problems in Impact Assessment (9)
- * Environmental Assessment Methods for Power-lines and Substations (5)
- * SIA Sectoral Methods (3)
- * GIS and Social Issues (6)
- * Institutionalising SIA (4)
- * Criteria for Effectiveness of Social Assessment (3)
- * Ontario / Quebec Associations for Impact Assessment Workshop (1)
- * References to SIA Models (4)
- * SIA in Rural Areas - What are the Issues / Rural Australia Conference (7)

Note that Human Rights also received a huge volume of discussion (27 postings) over the July to December period, making it by far the most talked-about subject on the list server over the period.

As an example of the flavour and character of the discussion, the following is a summary of the postings on the "Pressing Issues in Impact Assessment" discussion stream.

The discussion was sparked off by a request from **Kristi Branch** (also posted to IAIA_URBAN) for discussion on emerging issues in impact assessment as a preliminary to a presentation she was about to give on the subject. She wrote:

"Based on discussions through the list server, it seems that human rights is one such issue. What do people see as others? What are the key issues for those of you working in the urban assessment area?"

Reiner Banden from Canada responded:

"... There seems to be a move towards a social dimension in impacts. Human rights is one example. There is also a move from sustainable development towards the general concept of equity. In health impacts assessment, which is my personal field, there is a move towards the psycho-social determinants of health. This move towards the social dimensions seems to be a sort of undercurrent avoiding the term Social Impact Assessment. Is it to avoid the classic resistance to SIA from decision makers or is it a sign of a high level of integration of social impacts into decision making? ..."

James Baines (Christchurch) contributed:

"On a completely different tack might be the common failure - in project-related assessments - to establish and carry through post-assessment monitoring and evaluation of change, in order to provide further feedback and validation on original impact assessments. Is this a common experience?"

Barney Masuzumi had quite a bit to say, but in brief:

"I have only three items, at this time, in reply to your request for information.

"1. Land Claims and Aboriginal Rights: In the recent Environmental Agreement between the governments of Canada and the Northwest Territories and BHP, Inc., there is provision for Land Claims and Aboriginal Rights as well as for the post-Hearing establishment of an independent environmental monitoring agency - which is charged with designing a mechanism for collecting baselines on socio-economic monitoring and social effects.

"2. Traditional Knowledge: The BHP EA Agreement also provides for the inclusion of Traditional Knowledge (TK) in conventional EA practice as follows: "The Government of Canada recognises the importance of TK. The Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency will develop, in collaboration with its partners, a guide on TK in the context of federal environmental assessment. The guide will describe the various types of TK that have been used in the past in Canada. It will also provide advice on how and when TK can be integrated into the federal environmental assessment process. Once Aboriginal land claims are fully implemented and boards and institutions pursuant to those claims are in place, the use of TK in environmental decision making will become more widespread in the North.

"This concession makes possible a serious discussion on the primary assumptions of conventional EA practice - i.e., the epistemology of science (or scientism) and the disparate paradigms that an equitable EA process must attempt to accommodate.

"3. Inconsistent National EA Formats/Procedures: The Environmental Assessment Sub-committee of the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment Harmonisation Initiative have recently tabled a draft paper titled, "A New Approach to a Proposed Model for Harmonisation of Environmental Assessment in Canada". This paper describes the following context and rationale for a new approach:

“Environmental assessment is a planning tool used to ensure that the proponent of a project or activity considers the potential for significant environmental impacts before irrevocable decisions are taken to permit the project to proceed.

All federal, provincial and territorial jurisdictions in Canada operate some form of environmental assessment process. The application of the processes may involve overlapping or duplicating efforts by proponents, the public and government agencies. This can result in conflicting decisions, increased uncertainty, and costs or delays for proponents, governments and the public.

A further factor is the variation among environmental assessment processes across Canada. Environmental assessment is applied differently, and in some cases, to different projects in various jurisdictions. More information may be required for an assessment in one jurisdiction than another or an assessment may take longer. The public may be provided with varying opportunities to review and comment on the assessment prior to decisions being taken.

The environmental assessment harmonisation initiative aims to address the problem of overlap and duplication by providing for a single assessment and review process for each project.

It would also establish Canada-wide consistent national standards for the content of an assessment and the process used to achieve those standards for content. The proposed model would address the problems associated with the current potential for the application of more than one environmental assessment process to the same project and also ensures Canadians of the protection provided by high quality environmental assessment, wherever they live in Canada”.

“This document seems to give substance to the first part of Banken Reiner’s question “Is it to avoid the classic resistance to SIA from decision makers?” The language and content of the paper avoids decidedly the terminology associated with SIA and only mentions it as “socio-economic considerations” under the section dealing with Scope of the Review.”

Perre Senecal (IAIA President) drew the discussion’s attention to a keynote speech he delivered entitled “Significance and World Trends of EIA Systems” at a symposium organised by the Japanese Environmental Agency in Tokyo last September.

Key points of **Penny Dutton’s** (Brisbane) comments were: “I would ... like to reiterate what some others have said about weaknesses in the “front end” of the SIA process i.e. being confined to narrow terms of reference; and the “far end” of the process i.e. lack of monitoring and reality testing of predicted impacts. Whilst the terms of reference can be negotiated and varied to some extent during social impact assessment, follow up monitoring requires a lot of commitment (to SIA and financial commitment) from governments and donor agencies. Increased monitoring and re-assessment would be very beneficial for SIA practitioners too, for improving professional knowledge.”

Allan Dale (Australia) observed: “Having just spent a few years

seeking to institutionalise SIA within Queensland’s Impact Assessment system, I would have to say that issues relating to the institutionalisation of Impact Assessment need to be high on your list. In the Queensland system for example, there remain some critical problems:

- * Different agencies responsible for IA under one Act have entirely different “cultures” in administration of IA;
- * There is little consistency in the administration of IA at a Local government level;
- * The institutional arrangements currently in place do not encourage practice which meets the opportunities presented by existing legislation;
- * Our triggers remain technical rather than negotiated;
- * SIA remains marginalised in an institutional sense.

“There is much to be done to keep institutional and administrative quality on the agenda.”

David Hickie, Regional Environmental Assessment Co-ordinator of the Environment Agency - Midlands Region (UK) commented: “We too have been working on the post-decision phase monitoring, but also more fundamentally, the management of the delivery of environmental constraints promised in the environmental statement. We use what we call ‘Environmental Action Plans’ to manage the delivery and operation of the project.

“Certainly the human aspects of EA are coming to the fore, but also the wider environmental management issues associated with trying to deliver ‘sustainable development’ are stretching our EA co-ordination resources to the limit.

“Another problem we are trying to overcome is the one of making the EA process more transparent and accessible both to local communities and outside agencies, and our own project engineering staff.”

IAIA_ProfDev

This list server also has much to interest those professionally involved in Social Assessment. It is slightly less active at the moment than IAIA_SIA. The discussion has centred around the following (figures indicate number of postings):

- EIA - Pressure on Environmentalists (5)
- Code of Ethics and IAIA Web Page (3)
- Pressure on EIAs (3)
- Ownership of Findings (2)
- Public Participation in EIA (2)
- EIA Training Course Database Available (1)
- Searching for a Superphosphate EIA (1)
- Pre-service Environmental Education: Teaching Our Teachers Workshop (1)

GOVTEVAL Site Has Moved

GOVTEVAL is an un-moderated global electronic discussion group open to anyone involved or interested in issues related to public sector program evaluation. This is also a very active discussion group, with much to interest those involved in Social Assessment. This server has now shifted.

To subscribe to the new server, send the message: “subscribe govteval [your e-mail address]” to “majordomo@nasionet.net”.

James Newell

jnewell@mera.actrix.gen.nz

BOOK REVIEW

With Wayne McClintock

EMPLOYMENT AND THE FUTURE OF WORK: THE HARKNESS EMPLOYMENT CONFERENCE.

Edited by Gary Hawke. Institute of Policy Studies, Victoria University of Wellington, Wellington. ISBN 0- 908935-01-3, paperback, 194pp, 1996. Price \$30 incl. GST.

This book contains a collection of papers presented at the Harkness Employment Conference, held in Wellington during May 1995. The conference focused on a wide range of issues associated with the changing nature of work and employment as we approach the new millennium.

The book includes papers from sessions on: international perspectives on employment issues; skills and employment trends; business and industry enterprise; technology and employment; globalisation and employment; Treaty issues related to employment; and government responsibilities. The contributors include business leaders, academics and public officials from the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand. They address such issues as: Is an internationally open and competitive economy compatible with full employment? What can New Zealand learn from the experiences of other countries? What are good local and overseas models for employment practice? Will employment continue to be the primary indicator of participating in and belonging to society? How are employment issues related to the Treaty of Waitangi? What are the New Zealand Government's responsibilities with respect to employment?

Volumes of conference papers are often uneven in their quality, and *Employment and the Future of Work* is no exception. It is also difficult in a brief overview to do justice to the wide range of views represented at such a conference. Thus I intend to discuss the positive contributions made by two of the authors, rather than to rigorously examine every article in the book.

Anne Jones from Brunel University (UK), in her discussion of skills and employment trends, reports on recent organisational changes identified by a research programme at Brunel. She notes the emergence of smaller organisations operating within a context of continuous change on a global scale. With flatter hierarchies, and a focus on customer care, more organisations are forming partnerships with suppliers and strategic alliances with their former rivals. Some organisations are also shifting from management to facilitative leadership, with a focus on continuous learning and collaborative team working to retain a competitive edge. Jones maintains that in this new environment there will be a paradigm shift from training to learning. People rather than organisations will be the paymasters, and they will want their learning to be flexible, accessible, and to provide good value for money. Meanwhile the role of the educator will change from

teacher to that of a facilitator, supporter, and counsellor.

Colin Knox, of the Executive Committee Limited, makes some interesting comparisons between Maori and western business models during his examination of Treaty issues associated with employment. He observes that groups of students at Te Wananga O Raukawa over the past few years have distinguished three major differences between these models: who the beneficiaries of the business are; how people, especially the leaders, are empowered; and how problems, or breaches of procedure, are managed. Knox comments that Maori believe the ownership of a Maori business goes beyond the interests of the shareholders to other Maori, who feel entitled to debate how the organisation is being run, although they have never invested a cent in the enterprise. He also contrasts the Maori way of empowering people with the authoritarian management of the western model, which he claims is still the dominant style. Citing the example of a tikanga, or code, drawn up by his class of business students, he describes its significance as the basis of his authority to lead the students and resolve any problems regarding procedures and relationships that may arise. Moreover, Knox considers that a topic such as employment must be addressed from a spiritual point of view. He notes that "the position of God in respect to events, and the meaning of humanity, and love and family, are part of the working philosophy of Maori", and that leaders of Maori enterprises require "confidence in their own spirituality, and confidence in working from their beliefs and convictions as well as the financial and strategic objectives of their organisations" (p.155).

Employment and the Future of Work will be of most interest to policy makers, researchers and community leaders who are concerned about the rapidly changing nature of work and employment, and its social and economic effects on New Zealand society. Many of the contributors, however, adopt a conservative approach to social and economic management, and consequently the book contains few imaginative proposals for the reform of work and employment practices as we approach the 21st century.

Copies of this book may be obtained from the Institute of Policy Studies, Victoria University of Wellington, PO Box 600, Wellington. Phone: (04) 4715-307. Fax: (04) 4731-261.

WANTED
DEAD OR ALIVE (STILL)

Books, reports etc. for review purposes
Your reward is in bringing your work to the attention of fellow professionals!!!
We are always looking for relevant material to review. Anyone wanting research reports or publications reviewed in SIAN should send them to Wayne McClintock
His postal address is: 54 Parnwell St, Burwood, Christchurch 9, and he can be contacted by phone at (03) 383 3784, or by e-mail on:
w.mcclintock@chch.planet.org.nz

NAMES SOUGHT FOR NEW IAIA DATABASE

I received a message from Xiao-Yin Jin in the States, who is developing a database on behalf of the International Association for Impact Assessment. The purpose of the database is to exchange information about IAIA activities with other organisations and agencies with similar interests. In particular, they would like to inform potentially interested environmental officials, professionals, scholars, etc., of upcoming IAIA meetings. Xiao-Yin Jin is seeking points of contact to disseminate meeting announcements and so on within agencies, over e-mail networks, or as notices in newsletters. (See the IAIA website: <http://IAIA.ext.NoDak.edu/IAIA/> for more information about IAIA).

If you would like to be on this database, please provide the following information to Xiao-Yin Jin by e-mail, mail or fax. If there are other suitable people in your organisation, please forward the information to them.

In addition, if you also have occasional information that you would like to disseminate through the IAIA newsletter, the association would welcome such exchange. Please use the contact details below for this purpose also.

Please forward the following information to:
Xiao-Yin Jin
e-mail: j.xiyiu@isye.gatech.edu
Post: 765 Ferst Dr, ISYE, Georgia Tech,
Atlanta, GA 30332-0205, USA
Fax: (404) 894-2301.

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Publications:

Cheers,
Chris Cosslett

DAN QUAYLE'S QUOTABLE QUOTES CORNER

"Mars is essentially in the same orbit... Mars is somewhat the same distance from the sun, which is very important.

We have seen pictures where there are canals, we believe, and water. If there is water, that means there is oxygen. If oxygen, that means we can breathe."

"I was recently on a tour of Latin America, and the only regret I have was that I didn't study Latin harder in school so I could converse with those people."

"What a waste it is to lose one's mind. Or not to have a mind is being very wasteful. How true that is."

NEXT ISSUE...

We of the Core Group decided that this issue of the newsletter would not have a theme, as is normally the case. Rather, we decided that SIAN 42 would be a collection of bits and pieces. However, the next issue *will* have a theme, which will be *Changes in Communications*. Consider this a call for contributions. Possible topics for articles might include:

Telecommunications

Broadcasting communications

Libraries vs. the Internet

The decline of rural radio

The decline of children's radio

Public information implications of broadcasting cutbacks.

There is plenty of scope for interesting discussion and reporting here, so please put your minds to it and send your contributions in by the end of May if possible. If you know of any work being done in any related areas, please let me know so I can follow it up.

Thanks,

Chris Cosslett
Phone (04) 389 9979
Fax (04) 389 4646

Subscriptions

This is just a reminder to those of you who have not yet paid your subscriptions for the new year. There is an advantage in paying early, as demonstrated in the following fee schedule:

1 year's membership (if paid before 30 May): \$35.00

1 year's membership (if paid later): \$40.00

3 years' membership: \$100.00

Invoices will shortly be sent to those people who requested them last year.

SIAN is compiled and published by members of the Association for Social Assessment (Inc.) and distributed **free** to SIA Network members.

Its aim is to encourage **contact** and **sharing** of information between all those interested in social assessment in New Zealand. The views expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of their various employers or the Association.