PATRICIA FANNING
MEIANZ

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY

Joined the Institute in
1992

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Environment Institute
of Australia and
New Zealand Inc.

What prompted you to join EIANZ?

At the time, I was working as a consultant, and the EIA (as it was then) provided me with two things. First, a network of environmental professionals with whom to share experiences in what was then the fledgling environmental assessment industry. Second, being a member provided me with professional 'credibility' when dealing with clients, regulatory authorities, and other stakeholders.

What have you found most rewarding about a career in the environment sector?

I have spent most of my career educating and training environmental professionals, the most rewarding part of which is knowing that many of these graduates have gone on to careers in the environmental protection and management sector and that they have made a difference.

What is the biggest change that you have seen in the environment profession over the years?

That consideration of the environment is no longer an "add-on"; it is now integrated into most aspects of our economy and our society.

What are some of the most important lessons you have learned (so far) over the course of your career?

That (environmental) education is critical to the future of the planet.

What do you see as EIANZ's key role in the environment sector?

To provide environmental professionals with support to do their jobs. I'd also like to see the organisation taking on more lobbying of governments to ensure that environmental consequences of law making are not ignored.

What advice would you give a colleague thinking of joining EIANZ?

I would encourage it, especially because of the key role that academics have in environmental education and training. Being a member of the EIANZ ensures that we keep in touch with the professionals, the people at the coal face (or maybe we should say water's edge!).