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COMMISSIONER | LAND AND
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Joined the Institute in 1987

“Use your membership to build your networks, find mentors, learn, and contribute to the profession.”



Environment Institute
of Australia and
New Zealand Inc.

What was EIANZ like in the early years? Why did you decide to get involved?

EIANZ was launched by Griffith Uni and UNE academics. I received a letter from UNE inviting me to join this new professional institute. I thought it important to be part of building this new profession of multidisciplinary practitioners, and so I joined up.

Who were/are some of your career mentors? Tell us about them.

Adrian Stark, Foundation Director of WWF Australia. My first boss. He encouraged me to study French and accounting, and to travel. Together, all were important in securing my next career move to Switzerland.

Charles de Haes. Director General of WWF International. My boss in Switzerland. He broadened my professional horizons though providing exceptional access to the most senior levels of the organisation. His work style was very different to mine, but I learned a huge amount by working so closely with somebody with a different style of work.

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

- Build networks and don't burn bridges.
- Find work you enjoy. If you enjoy your work, it won't seem like work.
- Embrace change.
- When change is needed, create space in your life to identify opportunities and manage the change.
- Accept assistance and mentoring whenever they are offered.
- Have the confidence to be humble.

Thinking about the last 30 years, what stands out to you as the highlight or most significant achievement of the Institute?

- Its founding in 1987
- Development of the EIANZ Code of Ethics and professional Conduct
- Development of the Certified Environmental Practitioner (CEnvP) scheme

- The development of the Australasian Journal of Environmental Management (AJEM)
- The creation of the NZ Chapter transforming EIA to EIANZ
- Development and strengthening of the EIANZ Divisions, most notably the NSW, Vic and SEQ Divisions and NZ Chapter.
- The organisation and continuity of the EIANZ Annual Conferences - a signature and enduring event at the heart of EIANZ and its service to members
- The development of EIANZ Central Office – to its current position as a well led entity, providing outstanding service to members.

What do you think the biggest challenge facing the environment profession is today and what do you think EIANZ's role is in addressing this challenge?

Continuing our efforts to lift the standing and recognition of the environment profession in the community, amongst regulators, and by our political representatives.

What do you think EIANZ will be like 10 years from now?

Quadruple in size, and ten times the influence.

Why has EIANZ membership remained a priority for you over the last 30 years?

We are building a new profession with great relevance and importance to the health and well-being of society. Having a strong professional association is a key part of underpinning the relevance of any profession, and demonstrating that we are, and operate as, a true profession. These are important pursuits, and as a consequence it's important that all environmental practitioners be member of EIANZ.

What advice would you give to new members of the Institute?

Use your membership to build your networks, find mentors, learn, and contribute to the profession. Don't do it for yourself, but for what it can do for the broader profession. If you contribute, people notice. Your EIANZ voluntary work will add value to your professional standing.