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Joined the Institute in 1987

“[EIANZ membership has remained a priority because]...of its singular, critical objective in securing long-term viability for our natural assets.”



Environment Institute
of Australia and
New Zealand Inc.

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

I joined because of its journal of current environmental management practice in this country.

Did you attend the first national conference in 1987? What are your memories of this event and the atmosphere in the profession at the time?

The atmosphere in the profession (such as it was then) was optimistic but naive.

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

- Churchill Memorial Trust (1967), recognising very early in its foundation the need for environmental management
- AMP/Stanbroke Pastoral Company as the major land managers with foresight about the need for natural asset management
- Pacific Developments as major waterfront (downstream) developers with enduring interest in strategic regional (catchment) landscape planning
- Institute for Future Environments, Queensland University of Technology, with ongoing promise of creating long-term affordable solutions in sustainability.

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

The principal lesson in Australia has been that government can only play a lesser active part in field management than the private sector, and that we have not yet built on and reinforced that outlook.

Celebrating
30
years

1987 - 2017

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

The certification program, along with continued publication of its companion technical journal. Membership activities at a branch level have certainly helped cement these basic social responsibilities.

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?

Education about affordable land management techniques for the core refugia of our natural assets; with EIANZ to rise to the challenge of generating active interest by leading, influential landholders in new initiatives/techniques that will ensure sustainable natural resource management at least of these vital areas.

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

If common sense prevails, playing an active role as the peak body influencing and overcoming the above challenge.

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

Because of its singular, critical objective in securing long-term viability for our natural assets.

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

Contribute to the above, and persist.