



Volume 2, September 1999

Inside this Issue

- 1 Membership Drive Important Event
- 2 Agenda for The First Ecological Forum
- 3 NCC Draft Code Profile: Geoff Winning
- 4 Objectives of ECA Council
- 5 Membership Information Annual General Meeting
- 6 Membership Application

Newsletter of the Ecological Consultants Association of NSW Inc.

ECA is Up and Running

ECA began on 24 September 1998 and is now gearing up to represent the interests of practicing ecological consultants. Experts and practitioners in the field now have a professional body to oversee crucial processes such as accreditation, further education, training, standards, ethics, information exchange and negotiation with government and policy makers. The challenge now is to encourage membership to all eligible parties to establish the presence and effectiveness of the organisation in all its roles.

Membership Drive

Don't hesitate any longer! Fill out the membership form at the end of this newsletter and post it off with your check to begin participating in The Ecological Consultants Association. If you do not know two practising members, or anyone who attended the meeting at The Australian Museum in September 1998, just post the completed form and check and the executive will contact you should any questions regarding eligibility arise. The strength of numbers will move the organisation from small beginnings to a leading and much needed professional service association.

Important Event

The first in a series of ecological forums will be held on Friday, Sept. 17, 1999. The aim of these meetings is to gather the relevant stakeholders and discuss in detail issues that affect how ECA members conduct their work. For the first forum, the selected issues are:

- Survey Guidelines and Standards
- Threatened Species: Assessment and Role of Local Government

Each forum will feature presentations by invited speakers who will address the issues from their perspective, be it local government, agencies such as NPWS, EPA, Fisheries, DUAP, consultant or other. Ample time will be allowed for discussion.

THE FIRST ECA ECOLOGICAL FORUM

- Friday, 17 September 1999
- Taronga Conference Centre, Taronga Park Zoo, Sydney
- 9:45 to 4 pm

AGENDA For the First Ecological Consultants Association Forum

Friday 17th September 1999
Taronga Conference Centre, Taronga Park Zoo, Sydney

- 9.45am Arrival and check-in. Membership applications available.
- 10.00am Geoff Winning to introduce E.C.A. President Andrew Smith
- 10.10am President Andrew Smith to welcome members and guests.
Presentation on the 'Scope and Content of Standardized Guidelines for Ecological Assessments'
- 10.25am Martin Denny – Overview of Forum and presentation on *'Process of standardising ecological assessment'*.
- 10.40am Guest Speaker - Lloyd van der Wallen, Project Officer Threatened Species Unit, National Parks & Wildlife Service – *'Survey and assessment issues'*
- 11.20am Morning Tea
- 11.40am Guest Speaker - Ross Peacock, Ecological Co-ordinator Sustainable Land & Coastal Management (Information & Planning), Department of Land & Water Conservation
'The Development of Guidelines for Targeted and General Flora & Fauna Surveys and Reports under the Native Vegetation Conservation Act (1997)'
- 12.15pm Guest Speaker – Sue Effenberger, Environmental Planner, Lake Macquarie City Council
'Lake Macquarie Guidelines for Flora & Fauna Surveys'
- 1.00pm Lunch
- 2.00pm Guest Speaker – Louisa Mamourney, Development Ecologist, Wyong Shire Council
'Wyong Shire Guidelines for Flora & Fauna Surveys'
- 2.30pm Open Forum Discussion – chaired by Geoff Winning.
This session will allow members to openly debate the issues presented by our speakers.
- 3.45pm Summation and Close – Andrew Smith
- 4.00pm Close - Afternoon Tea

NCC Draft Code of Professional Conduct for Ecological Consultants

Geoff Winning

The Nature Conservation Council of NSW recently released for comment a draft code of professional conduct to which it hoped ecological consultants would subscribe. This draft appears to have been prepared with little or no consultation with any practicing ecological consultants. It made some idealistic (and perhaps naive) statements about the role of consultants. The ECA made a submission to NCC advising that we considered that any code of conduct or ethics needed to be prepared with full involvement of practicing ecological consultants. ECA further indicated its intent to work on such a code and invited contact with NCC on this matter.

Profiles

This issue: Geoff Winning



Profile: ECA Treasurer & Public Officer Geoff Winning

Geoff Winning is one of the small group of ecological consultants that initiated the formation of ECA, and is currently the Treasurer and Public Officer.

Early in high school, after reading a book on atoms, Geoff decided he would be a nuclear physicist, and kept this ambition until actually entering university where he discovered ecology. From this time, it was clear that he would end up in a career in ecology, but not straight away.

This was the early seventies and Geoff had visions of dropping out and joining a commune on the north coast. While reluctant to leave the comforts of city (Newcastle) life for a rough life in a commune, the urging did result in him not completing the science degree he had started, and drifting between jobs for a number of years. These jobs ranged from gardening to public service clerk (there seemed to be plenty of public service jobs back then).

Eventually, Geoff decided to finish his studies and, after a few false starts, completed an Associate Diploma in Environmental Studies at Mitchell College of Advanced Education in 1985. This was followed by a Graduate Diploma in Environmental Management in 1988.

At about this time, an organisation known as Shortland Wetlands Centre was established to manage a degraded wetland site for educational and tourist purposes. Geoff was in the right place at the right time to become the first employee of SWC in 1986, and remained working there for 10 years. During this time he became increasingly involved in ecological consultancy in addition to responsibilities in managing the SWC site.

In early 1997 Geoff left SWC to start up his own small business specialising in wetland ecology, but also working in management of other ecosystems. He is also a part-time teacher with Hunter Institute of Technology where he mainly teaches subjects in the new Diploma in Natural Resources Management, including Aquatic Science, Statistics, Plant Identification and Animal Identification. Geoff has found teaching to be rewarding and it now occupies up to half of his time. He also likes to get the students involved in real research projects, and was instrumental in establishing the Centre for Coastal Wetlands Management as a focus for student involvement in wetlands research.

Objectives of ECA

- To represent practicing ecological consultants in NSW
- To liaise with regulatory authorities and other bodies on matters relevant to the practice of ecological consultants in NSW
- To co-operate with other bodies or organizations and institutions both within Australia and overseas having objects in part or similar to the objects of the Association.
- To prepare and/or support standards and/or guidelines relevant to the practice of ecological consultants in NSW, including but not limited to:
 - Accreditation of consultants;
 - Standards for the practice of methods used by ecological consultants;
 - Peer review of work of ecological consultants;
 - Code of ethics to be followed by practicing ecological consultants;
 - Code of business practices.
- To initiate, co-ordinate or undertake training programs, seminars, etc for the betterment of the practice of ecological consultancy in NSW.
- To undertake any activity which in the opinion of the Council of the Association is calculated to promote the interest of ecological consultants in NSW and elsewhere.

Council

President

Andrew Smith
Austeco Environmental
Consultants

Vice President

Paul Broese
Arnhem Environmental
Impact Assessors (AEIA)

Secretary

John Travers
Conacher Travers Pty Ltd

Public Officer/Treasurer

Geoff Winning
Hunter Wetlands Research &
Management

Council Members

Craig Anderson
Wildthing Environmental
Consultants

Susan Calvert
Environment Protection
Authority NSW

Martin Denny
Mount King Ecological
Surveys

Dominic Fanning
Gunninah Environmental
Consultants

Glenn Hoye
Fly By Night Bat Surveys

Tim Norman
Graduate School of the
Environment, Macquarie
University

Peggy O'Donnell
The Ecology Lab Pty Ltd

Judith Rawling
Urban Bushland Management
Consultants

Brian Wilson
Ecotone Ecological
Consultants

Arthur White
Biosphere Environmental
Consultants



Making ECA Work

An important function of ECA is organising debate and action on issues that affect professional ecological consultants. Interested members of ECA have agreed to be responsible for specific topics, serving either as chairpersons of standing committees, delegated officers or "devil's advocates". Each member will report to Council meetings on activities in their issue and provide an annual report to members in the Association newsletter. The topics of Survey Guidelines and Standards and Threatened Species are being discussed at the first Ecological Forum on Friday, 17 September. Martin Denny and John Travers have worked hard to organise what promises to be an interesting and lively forum. Members are encouraged to contact the people listed below to address any issue, or to put forward ideas for future forums.

Professional Ethics

Geoff Winning
Accreditation

Geoff Winning
Animal Welfare

Tim Norman
Threatened Species

Brian Wilson
Training

Judith Rawling
Guidelines & Survey Standards

Martin Denny
Insurance

Phil Conacher
Information & Intellectual Property Copyright

Andrew Smith
Membership

Craig Anderson
Newsletter Editor

Peggy O'Donnell

Membership Information

Membership of the Association is open to any person who is:

- An ecological consultant;
- Employed in an occupation relevant to ecological consultancy;
- Training in disciplines relevant to ecological consultancy;
- In sympathy with the objects of the Association, and;
- Willing to comply with the objects of the Association.

Members may be elected to membership of the Association as either practicing members, non-practicing members or student members where:

- practicing members shall comprise ecological consultants;
- non-practicing members shall comprise people other than practicing members and students;
- Student members shall comprise students training in disciplines relevant to ecological consultancy but are not practicing ecological consultants.

All interested persons are invited to join the Association. A membership application is appended to this newsletter for this purpose. Attendees at the meeting at The Australian Museum (who paid \$10) can sign membership forms. Council has set membership fees at \$160 for the 12-month period ending 30 June 2000.

Annual General Meeting

The first annual general meeting of the Ecological Consultants Association of NSW Inc. will commence at 3:00 pm on Tuesday 16 November 1999 in the upstairs room of the Blue Gum Hotel at the corner of Pacific Highway and Unwin Road Waitara. This location was chosen as it is reasonably central for the bulk of ECA's membership.

The meeting will comprise brief reports from the president and treasurer, followed by the election of president, vice president, treasurer and secretary, and up to ten ordinary Councillors. Nominations for these positions need to be made in writing, signed by two 'practising members', and lodged with the secretary by 16 October 1999.

Note that only 'practising members' whose subscriptions are up to date are entitled to vote. A 'practising member' is a person who is a practising ecological consultant and has been endorsed as a practising member by the Council. All memberships received to date fall into this category.

The meeting will be followed by an informal gathering in the bar to discuss matters of mutual interest, or non work-related matters if you wish.

Upcoming Events

- ECA submission to NCC regarding Draft Professional Code of Conduct for Consulting Ecologists
- Submission to DUAP regarding draft "Wetlands Compensation" Policy

Membership Application for Ecological Consultants Association of NSW Inc.

Applicant's family name	Given names		
Personal address			
State			
Postcode			
Contact telephone number	Mobile		
Current business name/employer	Nature of business		
Business address			
State			
Postcode			
Business telephone number	Business fax		
e-mail			
Postal address if different from any of above			
State			
Postcode			
Qualifications	Institution	Year	

Membership Application for Ecological Consultants Association, Page 2/3

Experience

I, _____ hereby apply to be considered for the following membership of the Ecological Consultants Association of NSW Inc. (hereafter referred to as "the Association") as set down in Rule 4 of the Constitution of the Association (attached).

Please tick one:

Practicing member (\$160) ☐ (practicing ecological consultants)

Non-practicing member (\$160) ☐ (non-practicing ecological consultants and all others except students)

Student member (\$80) ☐ (students training in disciplines relevant to ecological consultancy but who are not practicing ecological consultants)

Annual subscription \$_____ Enclosed_____

I agree to abide by the Constitution and Rules of Association at all times and to conduct myself and my business in accordance with the Constitution and Rules.

Signed_____ Dated_____

Membership Application for Ecological Consultants Association, Page 3/3

REFEREES: your application must be supported by two practicing members of the Association

1. Name _____ Signature _____ Date _____

2. Name _____ Signature _____ Date _____

After completing the first two pages of the application form, obtain the signatures of two practising members of the Association on the form above. If prospective members have difficulty finding two practicing members to support their application, please contact the membership officer (details below) for assistance or a list of members in your region. Note that attendees of the meeting at The Australian Museum on 24 September, 1998 can sign membership application.

Make your cheque for membership fees payable to Ecological Consultants Association. Send the cheque and all three pages of the completed application form to:

Ecological Consultants Association

Membership Application

C/O Conacher Travers Pty Ltd

PO Box 9, Wyong, NSW 2259

For membership inquiries, contact Craig Anderson: wildthing@infoserv.net.au

Members or prospective members may obtain a copy of membership rules by contacting Geoff Winning: wetlands@dragon.net.au