

NZIEH NEWSLETTER

MAY 2025



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www.nzieh.org.nz

President's Message

by Tanya Morrison



Kia Ora everyone and welcome to our latest newsletter edition. A lot has happened this year so far, including our sold-out face to face Professional Development Conference in Auckland towards the end of March. Being sold out, we were aware it would be tight in terms of venue capacity, but based upon our conference survey, overall, this was a successful event with a good variety of presentations and speakers enjoyed. Thank you to everyone who attended – we look forward now to preparing for next year's virtual conference, which will be on the 24th and 25th March 2026.

Delivered as a presentation during the conference were the results of our members labelling project, which commenced last year. We had 121 submissions as part of the project, with some interesting findings. The main finding was in relation to allergen labelling provisions. This project has now been written up into an academic paper and is available now via the member's only section of our website (login to your myNZIEH account to view under the training resources tab). We encourage all members to log on and review this and consider how the results may impact your verification practice moving forward. You can also potentially claim CPD points for reviewing this paper!

We are continuing with more research currently, by way of a joint Australia/New Zealand piece of work regarding Methamphetamine (Meth) contaminated properties, led by Dr Emma Kuhn (Flinders University) alongside myself. This survey is still live if you wish to participate and share your views, including the option of a more in-depth interview to help us fully understand the current state of reported Meth properties and issues related to Meth use and contamination within a New Zealand context. Link to survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/L5ZWLN>

Back to food safety, I attended a meeting as part of the Australia New Zealand Food Allergen Collaboration late April in Wellington. This is a group I have been involved with for several years, but it was the first face to face meeting since pre-covid times with a video link between the New Zealand hub in Wellington and the Australian hub in Sydney. More about this meeting later in the newsletter.

Our Vice-President Deirdre recently attended the Environmental Health Australia (EHA) conference in Brisbane early May in my place. Read Deirdre's recap later in the newsletter, which highlights the importance of networking and working collaboratively with our global partners. Environmental Health challenges are very similar worldwide, therefore working together where possible benefits us all. We are proud of the relationship we hold with EHA, amongst other internal organisations and look forward to continuing our collaborative work with them in the future.

President's Message continued...

One example of this is our EHANZ collaborative webinar coming up on Tuesday 10 June at 1pm (NZ time) for World Food Safety Day. Make sure you register for this free webinar to hear more about the role science plays within food safety, which is this year's international theme.

To further acknowledge World Food Safety Day, I have been invited to participate as an international panellist for NEHA (National Environmental Health Association of America), which I will do in the early hours of 4 June 2025 New Zealand time. A couple of our members have also been virtually interviewed in the lead up to this webinar, commenting on their roles within food safety in a New Zealand context. Snippets of these interviews are expected to be played through the main webinar itself. This webinar is open to NZIEH members, you can register via the link below.

<https://www.neha.org/wfsd>

The landscape for Environmental Health is in an interesting space at the moment, especially within America. We recognise the pressure public health agencies are facing in America currently, and alongside other international organisations such as Environmental Health Australia, we will be issuing a statement of support for our American colleagues to assure them, we stand together as a global workforce even in challenging times.

Back on our shores, work continues towards more conversations around the current regulatory state of the Appearance Industries (Tattooists, Skin Piercers and Beauty Therapists) within New Zealand. Alongside the New Zealand Association of Registered Beauty Professionals (NZARBP), I will be meeting with current Health Minister Simeon Brown in July to discuss these industries further and gauge what the future legislative landscape may hold for these industries.

As we head towards the half-way point of the year, which seems to be rapidly approaching, planning will soon start for our regional branch events later in the year across the country. Following on from a successful Masterclass at our conference in March, New Zealand Defence Force staff have gained approval to roll out this (or a slightly adapted version) of the Masterclass training to other regions across the country. If you are keen for this type of training, please email your branch representative or myself, so we can explore possibly delivering this training in your area.

As always, if you have suggestions for future training or initiatives the institute could explore further, we would love to hear from you. Until next time, continue the good work out there, and be proud as an institute member to be a part of the voice for Environmental Health within New Zealand.

Nga Mihi,
Tanya



NZIEH Annual Professional Development Conference 2025

continued



NZIEH Annual Professional Development Conference 2025

continued



NZIEH Annual Professional Development Conference 2025

Award Winners

Congratulations to all of our well deserving award recipients. The National Executive Leadership team - Tanya Morrison (National President), Deirdre O'Grady (National Vice-President) & Karla Galley (National Secretary) presenting the 2025 Awards at the 'Walk n Fork' evening at Rydges Rooftop Function centre.



*President's Award for Exemplary
Service to Environmental Health 2025
Bryan Brett*



*Exemplary Service to Environmental
Health 2025
Therese Back*



*Exemplary Service to Environmental
Health 2025
Ian Shaw*



*Emerging Talent with Environmental
Health Award 2025
Dave Gallagher*

NEW NZIEH Bronze Partner



Introducing Food Surety – Your Trusted Partner in HACCP and Auditor Training

We are excited to announce our partnership with Food Surety, a leading provider of food safety training in New Zealand. With extensive experience in HACCP, auditing, food safety, and compliance training, Food Surety is committed to supporting Environmental Health Officers (EHOs), verifiers, and food professionals in their vital roles.

Their hands-on courses are designed to meet MPI's competency framework expectations for Food Act verifiers. Whether you're seeking advanced HACCP and auditor training to fulfil professional development requirements or introductory food safety training for food operators, Food Surety offers flexible training options that suit your needs.

Key Courses Include:

- **HACCP Principles and Advanced Application**
Fulfil the HACCP training requirement for verifiers and supports Continuing Professional Development (CPD).
- **Advanced Auditor Training**
Meets MPI's competency framework expectations for Food Act verifier auditing skills training.
- **Introductory Food Safety e-Learning**
On-demand training for food handlers and food business operators.

With both in-person and live online course options, Food Surety is dedicated to helping you stay compliant, confident, and fully equipped to meet your food safety responsibilities.

[Visit Food Surety website today](#) to explore their comprehensive training programs and elevate your team's expertise.

Australia New Zealand Allergen Collaboration

Meeting re-cap by Tanya Morrison

On 29 April 2025, I attended a face-to-face meeting in Wellington as part of the Australia New Zealand Allergen Collaboration group, which I have been a part of for several years. This was the first face-to-face meeting since pre-covid times, with the New Zealand members meeting in Wellington, and the Australian members meeting in Sydney, connected via video link.

Multiple areas of food allergens were discussed, including ongoing initiatives and educational resources in development. Precautionary Allergen Labelling (PAL) statements were discussed from a consumer's perspective. These are statements of ingredients that 'may' be present within a food item. From a consumer's perspective, such statements should be treated as 'contains' statements if consumers have known allergens.

This is worth considering during your verification practice when discussing labels with food businesses about the intent of these statements. Whilst such statements can be made, they essentially are designed to cover a food business from a liability perspective, however, are not always helpful for end consumers – hence the recommended approach that end consumers should avoid certain foods when a PAL statement is present if they have known allergies.

The labelling and marketing of Vegan foods was also discussed. There have been some recent examples within Australia of two deaths resulting from Vegan foods ordered online and unknown allergens being present. One example included the ordering of a vegan pizza, made with nut cheese (cashew based), which resulted in a death from someone allergic to cashews. The findings from a coroner's investigation into this incident are still to come, however, the provisions for ensuring possible allergens are identified and made known was heavily discussed during the meeting.

Collectively we discussed that unfortunately, there is sometimes a perception that ordering vegan foods means such foods are free from allergens, which as we know is often untrue. Further confusion is raised with 'vegan meat' products being produced and marketed, which is not what 'meat' is traditionally thought of or defined as.

Focus areas of the group coming up include looking into online ordering systems further. This includes direct website ordering from food businesses, as well as how ordering through third-party delivery sites (such as Uber Eats etc) identify possible food allergens, and what systems are in place to alert the actual food business making the food, that an allergen request has been made by a consumer. Through this work further educational tools will be explored to assist food business operators, educate members of the public, as well as those within the regulatory space further.

There is also talk of a course targeted towards Environmental Health Officer's called 'All about allergens'. We will circulate more details about such training if, and when this becomes available. For more information about food allergen management, check out the Allergen Bureau's website – it contains some great information about all aspects of allergen management, which again could be a potential Continued Professional Development (CPD) point earning opportunity for those interested.

<https://allergenbureau.net/>

Environmental Health – Hear us ROAR: An NZIEH Perspective from Brisbane

by Deirdre O’Grady

I recently had the privilege of representing the New Zealand Institute of Environmental Health (NZIEH) at the 47th EHA National Conference, held in Brisbane from Tuesday 6th to Friday 9th May 2025. Hosted by EHA (QLD) INC, the conference theme was aptly titled “Environmental Health – Hear us ROAR!”, conveying the idea that we are a silent profession but that we do important work!

From the moment I arrived, the warmth and hospitality extended by the Environmental Health Australia members was truly remarkable, making us international delegates feel incredibly welcome. Attending events like these in person provides a fantastic opportunity for learning, networking, and sharing experiences with like-minded professionals.

The depth of topics covered in the conference programme was truly impressive, reflecting the multifaceted nature of our work. Climate Change was a prominent theme, and floods, heat, bush fires, algal blooms and vector control are increasing issues for our Australian counterparts. An example is emergent problems with mosquitos and dengue. There were presentations on several current compliance issues including vaping, cosmetic skin penetration, PFAFs and the safety of environmental health officers carrying out their job, particularly in relation to controlling vaping, which has attracted a criminal element due to stricter regulation.

I participated in a board meeting with international delegates, including IFEH President Dr. Bruno Cvetkovic and President of the US National Association of Environmental Health (NEHA) Commander Anna Khan. This session provided a platform to discuss how EHA can support international colleagues. I shared NZIEH’s ideas on international membership and cross-membership to foster greater collaboration between countries, as well as the potential for sharing articles, technical reports, and case studies between our newsletters. It was clear there is a lot of opportunity to learn from Australia, given its size and the wide scope of issues they are dealing with. We also discussed crucial shared challenges such as workforce development and maintaining core competencies for EHOs, and the need to raise the profile of environmental health so that it is no longer the 'silent profession'. The consistency of how students are trained and accredited in different countries was discussed along with the international transferability of qualifications. Dr. Bruno Cvetkovic's concept of "Environmental Health Without Borders" resonated deeply and is a valuable idea for us to consider as an organisation.

My conference experience concluded on Friday 9th May with an insightful workshop on “Effective Investigating and Evidence Gathering”, facilitated by Peter Gillett from McLeods Lawyers. This workshop proved to be both useful and informative. Whilst we are a silent profession, we perform a vital role in safeguarding our communities, and when necessary prosecuting those who would cause harm.

A special thank you must be extended to all the EHA members for their exceptional kindness and hospitality throughout my stay. It is an event that will remain vivid in my memory, leaving me with valuable knowledge and some truly lasting friendships. I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to have represented NZIEH at this fantastic conference and thank all those who made it happen.

Environmental Health – Hear us ROAR: An NZIEH Perspective from Brisbane

by Deirdre O’Grady





For those I haven't met, my name is Melissa Burn and I am the National President of Environmental Health Australia. I commenced in the role in October 2024. The first six months as president of Environmental Health Australia has involved a balance of strategic planning, advocacy, building relationships and responding to environmental health issues, all while positioning the organisation for long-term impact in driving economic growth through preventative health by strengthening the environmental health workforce for a sustainable, healthy and prosperous Australia.

I would like to thank NZIEH Tanya Morrison and the Executive for inviting me to attend your National Conference in Auckland from 25-27 March 2025. I enjoyed the learning, making the most of the valuable networking and professional connections, supporting the sponsors and celebrating your individual and collective success.

The continued collaboration between our organisations will benefit members of both countries and I look forward to the upcoming EHANZ webinar collaborations, including the EHANZ webinar for World Food Safety Day being held on Tuesday 10 June 2025.

Some activities that the National board have undertaken in 2025 includes:

- The EHA National Board has committed to the substantial upgrade of the National and all State Associations website and databases. This upgrade will enable the organisation to deliver better quality services to our Members into the future.
- The EHA Accreditation Policy is being reviewed and finalised as we move into the next 5 yearly cycle accrediting Universities across Australia.
- EHA has released our pre-budget funding submission for our Federal Election being held on 3 May 2025, calling for \$234.3 Million over four years for investment to rebuild Australia's Environmental Health workforce. More information about this can be found here: [News - Environmental Health Australia Ltd.](#)
- EHA is leading the review of the Australia Standard AS4674: Design, construction and fit-out of food premises as well as providing environmental health advice on the board of directors for the National Return of Unwanted Medicines.
- Forming alliances and strengthening relationships with other organisations in the environmental health sector to create more effective collaborations, including the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH) to recognise our accredited qualifications in each other's countries which was formalised with the signing of a MOU at the EHA National Conference.
- The 47th EHA National Conference was held in Brisbane from 6-8 May 2025. The conference will presented an opportunity for environmental health professionals to expand their skills and knowledge, network with their peers and explore opportunities for future collaboration.



ENVIRONMENTAL
HEALTH
AUSTRALIA

EHA has recently created a new membership category, International Membership. If you reside outside of Australia and have an environmental health qualification, we invite you to join the EHA family as an International Associate Member. Please refer to the International Membership information in this newsletter to see the benefits of the membership. To receive a form for membership application please email national@eh.org.au

Once again, thank you for warmly welcoming me to your country for your National Conference in March, I look forward to continuing the collaboration between our countries and building on the strong foundations we've established to create lasting partnerships and shared progress in the years ahead.

Melissa Burn FEHA, National President





INTERNATIONAL MEMBERSHIP

There's no better time to belong

Environmental Health Australia Ltd (EHA) is the leading environmental health professional organisation in Australia, advocating on environmental health issues and representing the professional interests of environmental health practitioners across Australia.

Being a Member of EHA is being part of a family – a family of environmental health professionals with shared interests and the aim of protecting people from hazards in their environment.

If you reside outside of Australia AND have an environmental health qualification, we invite you to join the EHA family as an International Associate Member.

INTERNATIONAL MEMBERSHIP

\$100



Membership Benefits

Anyone can benefit from joining the EHA family at any stage of their career and take advantage of these valuable benefits:

- Year-long access to webinars and professional development opportunities.
- Significant discounts on registration for professional development in Australia
- Access to the EHA National Newsletter: our quarterly newsletter which highlights the most recent and relevant environmental health news.
- Ability to contribute to our online community platform where you can build connections, gather insight and ask and respond to questions about environmental health issues.

Join today and become part of our community!
Email national@eh.org.au for a membership application

* International Associate Membership does not include voting rights
* Being an International Associate Member of EHA does not guarantee employment as an environmental health professional in Australia



Celebrate World Food Safety Day with EHANZ
Two Countries. Two Experts. One Important Conversation.

EHA and NZIEH are proud to present the first EHANZ Webinar of 2025, celebrating **World Food Safety Day** with expert insights from both sides of the Tasman.

Join us as we explore current and emerging issues in food regulation, standards, and safety systems with two highly experienced professionals:

Date: 10th June 2025

Time: 9:00am AWST / 11:00am AEST / 1:00pm NZST

Location: Online - Register [HERE](#)

Our Speakers:

Judd Owen (Australia)

Senior Food Safety Risk Manager, Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ)

Presentation: Cats, Dogs and Planes – Assessing a Change to the Food Standards Code

Chris Hewins (New Zealand)

Principal Advisor – Food & Wine Systems, New Zealand Food Safety

Presentation: Future Foods and the Regulatory System in NZ

Register now to secure your spot and gain valuable perspectives on the evolving landscape of food safety from both Australia and New Zealand.

We look forward to seeing you online next month!

NZIEH Appearance Industry report publications

The following publications are available to read and download via the NZIEH website

‘Health Risks associated with the Appearance Industries in New Zealand’

‘The current regulatory state of the Appearance Industries in New Zealand’

<https://nzieh.org.nz/publications>



Public Health Communications Centre



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New Zealand Food Safety

Ministry for Primary Industries

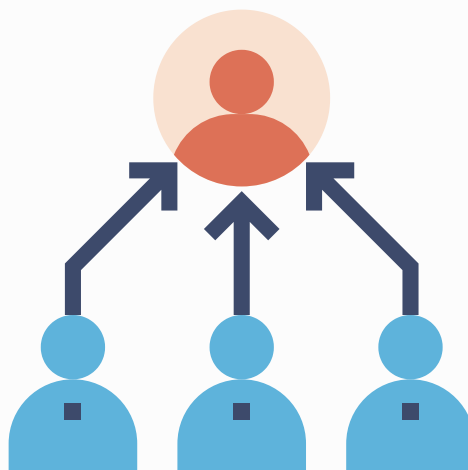
Manatū Ahu Matua

NZIEH/NZFS LIAISON

If you would like any Food Act related matters raised at the next meeting with NZFS staff through our representative, please email your submission to: **info@nzieh.org.nz**



Please note any Food Act related enquiries from food verifiers can be directed to: foodactinfo@mpi.govt.nz



NZIEH Website Advertising

NZIEH offer a Classifieds service for advertising your Job vacancy on the NZIEH Website www.nzieh.org.nz and on the Members Health Protect Forum. The price for a domestic classified is \$150.00 (excluding GST). All you need to do is email the following information to: **info@nzieh.org.nz** (Contact us for International Classified pricing)

- Job vacancy details
- Online link for the job application
- Contact details & closing date
- JPEG of your logo
- Purchase order number



NZIEH Facebook page

Find us on facebook @TheNZIEH
and like our page!



NZIEH website

www.nzieh.org.nz

Have you logged into myNZIEH yet?
if you need a password reset email
info@nzieh.org.nz



HOUSEKEEPING



CHANGING WORKPLACES?

A friendly reminder if you change your work place during the year please notify us via email: **info@nzieh.org.nz** to update your membership details. Thank you

MYNZIEH ACCOUNTS

Each member has their own myNZIEH account with access to a members only area with subscription details, policies & procedures, newsletters and various resources. Log in [HERE](#)

GAGGLE EMAIL GROUPS

Did you know that each branch has their own unique gaggle group email? This can be used to contact all members of your branch quickly and is the communication channel your Branch representative will use when organising regional branch events.

Northern:

aucklandbranchnzieh@gaggle.email

Waikato/Bay of Plenty:

wbopbranchnzieh@gaggle.email

Central North Island:

cnibranchnzieh@gaggle.email

Wellington:

wellingtonbranchnzieh@gaggle.email

Tasman/Marlborough:

tasmarlbranchnzieh@gaggle.email

Canterbury:

canterburybranchnzieh@gaggle.email

Southern:

southernbranchnzieh@gaggle.email



Health Protect:

healthprotectnzieh@gaggle.email

- All members are eligible to post work related queries to the Health Protect forum.
- A reminder this does not include classified or promotional material.

Working groups:

- The noise working group

Working groups are formed for members to discuss common issues or seek advice (as relevant to the working group topic thread). If you would like to join, or have a suggestion for any other working groups, please contact our National Secretary via email: **info@nzieh.org.nz**

INTERNATIONAL MEMBERSHIP



New Zealand
Institute of
**Environmental
Health**

NZIEH now offer an
International membership option
\$120 (no GST)

WHAT IS THIS?...

This tier of membership enables our Environmental Health colleagues from around the world to link in with our institute and participate in all online events such as our upcoming webinar series.



COME JOIN US!

If you know of any Environmental Health professionals living abroad who would be interested in exploring this membership option further, please direct them to our website for more information. Terms and conditions apply.

WWW.NZIEH.ORG.NZ



New Zealand
Institute of
**Environmental
Health**



Visibility - being seen by members, legislators, health organisations & public



Outcomes focussed - Evidence based framework to guide our decision making



Innovative Advocates - breaking boundaries with a courageous voice for everyone



Constructive Approach - working together to achieve our goals



Equality & Empowerment - supporting individual, professional growth & inclusivity



New Zealand's VOICE for Environmental Health

Our Partners

Gold



**Food & Health
Standards**
AOTEAROA, NEW ZEALAND



Silver



Bronze



Friends of NZIEH

