

NZIEH NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2026



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www.nzieh.org.nz

President's Message

by Tanya Morrison



Kia Ora everyone and welcome to the first NZIEH newsletter for 2026. I'd like to welcome our new members - it's great to have you all be a part of our wider NZIEH family.

We're not far away now from our virtual conference on 24 & 25 March – Many of you took advantage of the early bird rates that expired on 31 January but it is not too late to register. Registrations close on 10 March so head over to our website [HERE](#) and secure your place now to hear from a variety of speakers within our profession, as well as possibly earn some CPD points for food related topics.

NZIEH is also thrilled to be delivering lectures and content for Massey University students through February and March, to help share the experiences of what a day in the life of an EHO looks like. This will include exploring a Health Act nuisance complaint scenario, discussing The Food Act 2014 and how verifications work, alongside a crash course in legal tips and tricks.

The executive team works hard to ensure we deliver relevant and interesting content to you our members to help support you in your day-to-day roles and professional development. In return, there are opportunities for governance experience, working as part of a collaborative team, and gaining experience in project management for your own personal development. Thank you to everyone who sent in a nomination for the recent elections, these roles are now being finalised and official announcement of the new national executive team will be made at the AGM on 25 March. If you are not registered to attend the virtual conference but would like to attend the AGM only on the morning of Wednesday 25 March, please email info@nzieh.org no later than 10 March. The AGM agenda pack has been sent out to members on Friday 27 February so please check your emails for this info.

NZIEH and EHA recently met via zoom to plan our ECHANZ collaborative webinars for 2026. We are looking forward to delivering a variety of webinars again this year with the first to be held on 6 May for World Hand Hygiene Day so keep an eye out in April for more details and how to register for this webinar.

Our breakfast club zoom meetings for team leaders have been going well, details for how to join in on these monthly meetings are later in this newsletter. Recent discussions have been around food verification fee settings, with more discussions to come on Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) used across different councils at the next meeting.

If you have not already checked out the EHO knows podcasts, I encourage you to do so as there are a lot of interesting EH topics discussed. I recently featured with my 'Roostergate' podcast which you can check out [HERE](#). In the mean time, we are working hard to deliver another engaging and interesting virtual conference. You will see some 'speaker spotlights' being circulated via member email on our awesome presenters. I look forward to seeing many of you online at the conference on 24 & 25 March.

Nga Mihi,

Tanya



REGISTRATIONS ARE CLOSING SOON!

Don't delay, registrations close on 10 March!

View a draft programme and register here:

<https://nzieh.org.nz/our-conference>



Confidence in Every Decision: Empowering Food Professionals Through Practical Training

In today's complex food environment, confidence is more than a feeling, it is a professional necessity. Across New Zealand and internationally, Food Surety is helping food professionals gain the knowledge and skills needed to make sound, defensible decisions that protect consumers and brands.

Founded and led by experienced auditor and trainer Ray Haddad, Food Surety provides practical training across food safety, HACCP, Auditing, food defence, food fraud prevention, and food safety culture. Each course bridges the gap between compliance theory and real world application, helping participants understand not just what to do, but why it matters.

Food Surety's training approach is grounded in years of hands-on experience supporting producers, packhouses, manufacturers, exporters, and regulators. The sessions are interactive, scenario-based, and focused on clarity, empowering professionals to apply standards such as Codex HACCP, BRCGS, SQF and FSSC 22000 with confidence.

Whether delivered in virtual classrooms or onsite workshops, participants leave not only with certification but with renewed surety in their own decision-making. When professionals feel confident, compliance improves, audits run smoother, and, most importantly, consumers and brands are protected.

Visit the Food Surety website [HERE](#)

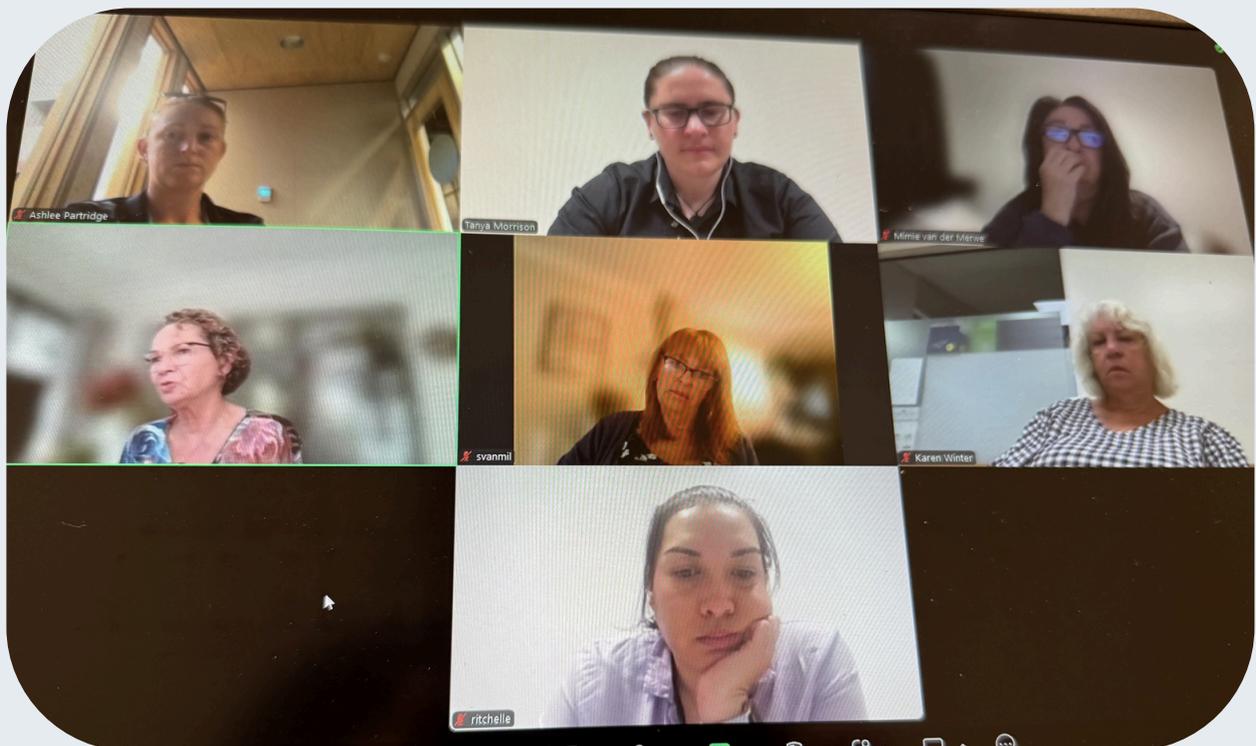


Breakfast



The Breakfast Club is an initiative started by NZIEH in 2025, aimed at supporting Team leaders and those managing people within Environmental health. The group meets on the first Wednesday of every month early morning and has discussed leadership topics, communication techniques and pricing structures around setting verification fees.

These sessions are interactive and collaborative, where within a safe space, different initiatives are discussed amongst the group to help members tackle everyday challenges within their roles. If you are currently in a team leader role and are interested in joining the Breakfast Club, please email Karla: info@nzieh.org.nz



We are pleased to advise that Major Bobbi Orr has now officially taken over as the NZDF Representative and has already made valuable contributions to the National Executive team.

MAJ Bobbi Orr

I am writing to introduce myself as the Senior Technical Advisor – Force Health Protection.

I joined the NZDF in 2012 as a Force Health Protection Officer (FHPO) in the rank of Lieutenant, posted to the 2nd Health Support Battalion (NZ) in Linton. Prior to this, I worked in local government for five years as a civilian EHO, and three years before that as an Environmental Compliance Technician. I have a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and Environmental Studies, a Graduate Diploma in Environmental Health Science, and I have recently started an MBA at the University of Canterbury. Army specific FHPO training was conducted at Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, USA in 2013, from which I achieved a place on the 'Dean's List'.



I have been on Exercise Pacific Partnership in 2013 to Kiribati and the Solomon Islands, and 2014 to Indonesia and Timor Leste. I have deployed on two HADR responses to the Solomon Islands in 2014, and Vanuatu in 2015. I then deployed on operations in Iraq in 2015-2016. At the conclusion of the deployment I was awarded an Australian Defence Force Bronze Commendation for my services on deployment. On return to NZ I was posted to HQ Joint Forces NZ in the position of Health Intelligence Officer and promoted to the rank of Captain. I held this position from 2016-2019 during which I worked with NATO and FVEY partners to improve the quality of and access to Health Threat Assessments for deployed personnel. In 2020, I deployed on operations in Lebanon as a United Nations Military Observer, and was located there when the world locked down during the Covid-19 pandemic. On return to NZ I posted to the Deployable Health Organisation in the position of Second-in-Command, Southern Health Support Squadron (SHSS), and also conducted duties in support of Op Protect (NZDFs Covid-19 response). In September 2021 I took a period of parental leave and returned to work in July 2022. In December 2022 I posted into the Officer Commanding, SHSS position. In December 2025 I am posted into the Senior Technical Advisor – Force Health Protection position.

I live in Christchurch with my partner Ian McKnight. Ian is the CEO of an structural engineering company in the city. I have an 11 year old step-son (Jack), a four year old daughter (Molly), and we have Lucy the sausage dog. My interests outside of work include mountain biking, rock climbing, hiking, aviation, gardening, reading, travelling, and generally having adventures.

I look forward to working with new, and maybe some old faces in the NZIEH.

Yours sincerely,

BJ ORR
MAJ, NZ Army



Kia ora colleagues, warm greetings from Australia. It is always a pleasure to connect with our environmental health whānau across the Tasman. The relationship between our two organisations continues to strengthen, and I value the shared commitment we have to advancing environmental health practice, leadership and professional development in both our countries.

I am truly excited and honoured to be presenting at your upcoming virtual conference on 24–25 March. Opportunities like this reinforce the importance of trans-Tasman collaboration and the exchange of knowledge, innovation and practical experience. Conferences such as yours provide a vital platform for environmental health professionals to reflect on emerging challenges, share success stories, and strengthen networks. I look forward to contributing to the programme and engaging in meaningful discussions with members.

Our continued collaboration between NZIEH and EHA through the EHZANZ webinar series remains a strong example of what we can achieve together. With dates and themes now locked in, we are focused on delivering high-quality, relevant learning opportunities that support members on both sides of the Tasman. These webinars provide accessible professional development, encourage cross-jurisdictional dialogue, and showcase subject matter experts from Australia and New Zealand. We are working closely to ensure the upcoming sessions are practical, forward-thinking and aligned with the evolving needs of our profession.

Advocacy remains a core priority for EHA. I'm pleased to share that EHA has recently provided a pre-budget submission requesting the Australian Federal Government provide crucial funding to ensure the protection of public health and the future wellbeing of all communities in Australia.

EHA requested \$231.5 million to focus on five key proposals:

1. Workforce and bridging the service gap (\$17.45 m)
2. Reinstating and strengthening education pathways (\$145.5 m)
3. Environmental Health Matters campaign (\$6m)
4. Asia-Pacific Capacity Building (\$9m)
5. Endowments and Scholarships (\$53.5 m)

The EHA submission highlights that Australia's public health infrastructure urgently requires enhancement, and the most effective way to strengthen this infrastructure is through investment in an effective environmental health workforce. The health and productivity of our nation depend on it. Environmental Health Officers (EHOs) play a critical role in protecting public health, but the current workforce is insufficient to meet growing demands.

This proposal calls for an investment of \$231.5 million over four years to rebuild and strengthen the EHO workforce, improve public health outcomes, contribute to the one-health framework and stimulate economic growth. The proposed funding will deliver a robust return on investment, directly benefiting Australia's health systems and national productivity. This funding will make a substantial impact.

The full budget submission can be viewed at: <https://www.eh.org.au/news/eha-pre-budget-submission-2026-2027>

This year marks a significant milestone for Environmental Health Australia — our 90th anniversary. Since 1936, EHA has championed the environmental health profession, advocating for standards, education and recognition across Australia.

We will be celebrating this remarkable achievement at our 2026 National Conference in Canberra. The conference will bring together environmental health professionals from across the country under a theme that honours our legacy while looking firmly to the future of the profession.

The event will feature keynote speakers, technical sessions, industry engagement and networking opportunities, all designed to celebrate 90 years of impact while exploring the challenges and innovations shaping environmental health over the coming decades.

We warmly invite our New Zealand colleagues to join us for this special occasion as we celebrate our shared history, collective achievements and continued partnership.

The strength of our profession lies in collaboration. By continuing to work together — through conferences, webinars, advocacy and shared initiatives — we build a more resilient, informed and connected environmental health community.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to your newsletter. I look forward to seeing many of you virtually at the conference in March, and continuing our strong partnership throughout the year ahead.

Melissa Burn
EHA National President

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>



EHO Knows – the podcast for Environmental Health Officers (EHOs). Hosted by Shane van de Vorstenbosch, each episode dives into the highs and lows of our daily work, offering valuable tips, insights, and a dose of humour. Whether you're a seasoned EHO or just starting out, this channel provides a unique opportunity to learn from others' experiences and discover how hindsight can guide us to better practices. Join us and our diverse guests as we navigate the ever-evolving world of environmental health.

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbO21k6voOhGF1sLAU_gB4Q

Public Health Communications Centre



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New Zealand Food Safety

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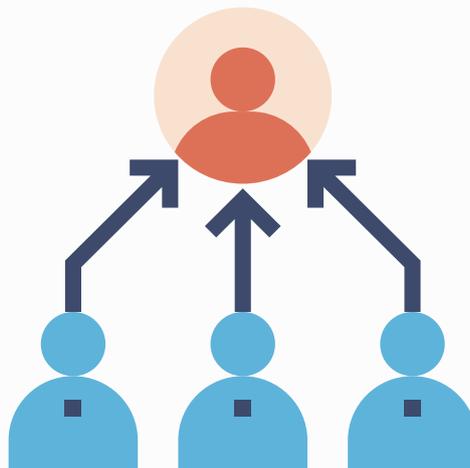
Manatū Ahu Matua

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**](mailto: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



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

