Environmental Management Working Party

Notes of a meeting held on 4 September 2002

Present: Ken Piddington, Kate Kearins, Richard Bedford, Bruce Clarkson, Marganne Allen

1. Apologies: Hamish Rennie, Brennan Allen, John Cameron

2. Review of 19 June 2002 Meeting Notes:

   Task (from Item 2): Audiotape of Bellamy lecture sent to Dean Williams (Environmental Program, Radio NZ). Dean had expressed interest in a story about gully restoration, Bruce Clarkson’s work and Bellamy’s talk, but has not followed up. No more efforts will be made to further distribute the Bellamy lecture. (Task completed)

   Task (from Item 3): See Item 7 below (Task in progress)

   Task (from Item 5): Marganne has been repeating waste audits conducted by Mark Woolley in order to get a feel for any trends in the waste stream (see Item 8 below for more detail). (Task in progress)

   Task (from Item 6): Task postponed until John Cameron is present for discussion.

   Task (from Item 8): No progress to date.

   Task (from Item 10): Completed

3. Appointment of new chair: Ken’s formal attachment to the University as an Adjunct Professor ends 14 September 2002. Ken recommended Kate as new chairperson if she was interested, and floor was opened to other volunteers. There were no other volunteers, and Kate accepted that she be recommended to the Vice Chancellor with support of the other EMWP members present.

   Task: Recommend Kate Kearins as new Chair for EMWP to Vice Chancellor (Ken).

4. Revision of Environmental Policy: It has been recommended by Helen Pridmore (VC’s Office) that the EMWP consider reviewing and updating the Environmental Policy for the 2004 Calendar. Particularly, the Implementation section (7) outlining Management Practice Statements should be reviewed.

   Task: Set out a schedule for review of the policy and invite input. Input from Helen Pridmore is desirable (Marganne).
5. PCE Sustainable Development Report: Morgan Williams (Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment or PCE) presented an overview of the report’s findings. Since New Zealand adopted the Agenda 21 principles from the 1992 Earth Summit, little progress has been made towards sustainability except for the past couple of years. The most significant sustainability legislation passed includes: Environment Act 1986, Resource Management Act 1991, Fisheries Act 1996, HASNO 1996, EECA 2000. Efforts at the local level have been more substantial. The PCE recommends stronger direction and legislation at the national level to move sustainability issues forward.

Morgan also presented the results of a tour he and other New Zealander’s took of Curitiba, Brazil. Curitiba has undertaken a special effort to incorporate sustainability issues into city planning and education efforts. Bruce noted that the presentation and possibly the tour itself did not provide any data to substantiate Curitiba’s claims of improved sustainability, which would have been immensely useful and highlights the need for monitoring.

The PCE Sustainable Development Report is available in the University Library, and Marganne will also make a copy available of both the PCE report and the Curitiba summary in the Vice Chancellors collection. Ken has volunteered to contact Morgan Williams to inform him of our discussion about the PCE report.

6. Hamilton – Clean Burning District Initiative Concept: Ken summarized his progress so far in developing an initiative for Hamilton to be a leader in clean-burning vehicle technology. One avenue to move this forward could be proposing this as a new Hamilton city slogan. For this initiative to be successful, it will require buy-in from the major “players” in Hamilton including the University of Waikato, Hamilton City Council and Environment Waikato. While the city council composition may not currently be ideal for environmental initiatives, the release of the PCE report and the Ministry of Transport report linking premature deaths to vehicle emissions puts air quality to the forefront.

Task: Approach Robert Priest (Deputy Chief Exec.) at EW about clean burning initiative (Ken).

7. Festival for the Environment (FE): The FE planning committee is looking for a key speaker with wide public appeal, such as Steve Irwin “The Crocodile Hunter.” EMWP members present agree that it would be appropriate for the University contribution to be an additional speaker that provided a more educational presentation. Suggested speakers and topics:

Topics: Global warming and genetic engineering, incorporate with local impacts
Richard Warrick – Global warming
John Leathwick – (Landcare Research) Global warming, effects

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Tony Sharley – Sustainable practices at Benrock Station vineyard, Australia
Possible speaker pool: Resource Use Taxation Conference planned for early 2003
(contact: Frank Scrimgeour)

Other standard activities: University grounds tour (Mark Thompson), annual gully
trip (Bruce Clarkson).

**Task:** Approach Richard Warrick about interest in speaking as a University FE
event (Marganne).

**Task:** Brainstorm additional possibilities for speakers or other activities the
University could sponsor. Provide feedback at special EMWP meeting October
10 (EMWP).

8. Environmental Coordinator Activities:

a) **RideLink:** Monitoring vehicle occupancy at Gates. Special thanks to Grounds
staff, Security staff and Golden Key Society for assisting in data collection. This
data shows that 80% of vehicles entering gates have only 1 person (ranges from
63-90%). This is similar to survey results from Terrena Kelly 2000 Geo 590
report of 73% solo drivers. Marganne has also been supporting website
development with help menus, survey questions, etc. Hoping to launch RideLink
this term, but probably will occur in Summer Semester.

b) **Environmental website:** Draft of website has been created by WMS web team.
After additional edits, web address will be forwarded to EMWP for comment.

c) **Trade Waste Discharge:** A consultant has been hired to complete application
process (Tony Peacham, Environmental Research and Technological Services).
Immediate results include recycling of fixer from photo labs as opposed to
dumping it down the drains. Intensive 5-day sampling of sewer discharge will
occur the week of Sept. 16.

d) **New recycling:** Plastic at SOE tearoom, glass with Grounds staff, plastic at
Orchard Park.

e) **Waste Audits:** Repeating waste audits conducted by Mark Woolley (to be
completed in October 2002). Approximately 39% of University waste could be
recycled (by volume). Most of that volume is paper products, followed by plastic,
aluminum cans and glass. Marganne asked for input for how to approach
University staff about results without appearing to be chiding staff. Recommend
that Marganne establish contacts with departments and schools that are positive
about environmental issues.

9. **ICE Award Applications:**

**Task:** Members agreed to review applications and to provide final
recommendation at special meeting scheduled for October 10, 10:30 FMD
Meeting room (EMWP).