

NZIEH NEWSLETTER



New Zealand
Institute of
**Environmental
Health**

JUNE 2026

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www.nzieh.org.nz

President's Message

by Tanya Morrison



Kia Ora everyone,

Welcome to the June edition of our members newsletter. It has been a busy few months as winter sets in.

In March, we successfully ran our virtual conference again, with strong attendance, positive feedback, and the continued benefits of accessibility, lower costs, and a reduced carbon footprint. Thank you to our presenters, the national executive, especially Karla and Deirdre, and Conference & Events for helping make the event a success.

Our membership year has rolled over, and thanks to Karla's work and members' prompt renewals, we remain in a healthy position with just over 300 members. A warm welcome to all our new members. We continue to look for ways to offer more as an institute. Our monthly Breakfast Club for team leaders has built a steady following, with recent discussions covering KPIs, levels of service, peer review, fees and charges, and performance management. If you would like to join, email Karla – you're more than welcome to jump online with your cup of tea and toast too ☺ We also have an exciting new initiative launching soon to provide further support and professional development for both new and experienced members. Please watch for details in the coming weeks.

In late April, the IFEH World Congress was held in Dubrovnik, Croatia. Although I was unable to attend in person due to travel disruption, Major Bobbi Orr represented NZIEH and the New Zealand Defence Force and reported that the opportunity to connect with international colleagues and share knowledge remained highly valuable. I was still able to attend the IFEH International Council meetings virtually and contribute to global strategic discussions for our profession.

In late May, I was elected President-Elect of the International Federation and joined the board of International Directors. I will serve a two-year term before becoming President in May 2028. I am honoured by the opportunity to represent New Zealand and contribute to the profession on the global stage.

In August, I will represent NZIEH at the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors annual conference in St John's, where I will also present. Later in the year, Deirdre O'Grady and I plan to attend Environmental Health Australia's national conference in Canberra, where I will represent and present on behalf of both NZIEH and IFEH. This conference will also mark 90 years of Environmental Health Australia, which is an impressive milestone – I encourage you to check out the programme being released in the coming weeks, and consider joining us across the ditch in October.

President's Message continued....

In the coming months, we have webinars planned through our EHA collaboration with EHA, including celebrating Plastic Free July. Later in the year, our NZIEH webinar series will return, followed by regional branch events around the country. If you have ideas for a branch activity or speaker, please contact your branch representative via the branch email addresses below or email Karla at info@nzieh.org.nz

Planning will also soon begin for our next face-to-face annual conference, to be held in Dunedin from 23 to 25 March 2027. Please watch for the call for abstracts later this year — we always welcome member contributions and case studies.

As we head into mid-winter, please take care and keep your energy up. We recognise that our profession is facing change through reviews and policy work across the country, and as your institute, we remain committed to supporting you and being your voice for Environmental Health in New Zealand.

Nga mihi,

Tanya

NZIEH Branch Representatives and Branch email addresses:

Northern - Northland: Alison Smith
northlandbranchnzieh@gaggle.email

Northern - Auckland: Varsha Prasad
aucklandbranchnzieh@gaggle.email

Waikato/Bay of Plenty: Jess Bruek
wbopbranchnzieh@gaggle.email

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Tasman/Marlborough: Karen Winter
tasmarlbranchnzieh@gaggle.email

Canterbury/West Coast: Tracey Feary
canterburybranchnzieh@gaggle.email

Southern: Veena Lal-Boon
southernbranchnzieh@gaggle.email

Upcoming Training

- 08**  **08 Jul 2026**
EHANZ Plastic Free July webinar
Information coming soon
[READ MORE](#)
- 01**  **01 Sep 2026**
National Webinar Series Day 1
Information coming soon
[READ MORE](#)
- 02**  **02 Sep 2026**
National Webinar Series Day 2
Information coming soon
[READ MORE](#)

Keep an eye on the NZIEH website training page here for upcoming training opportunities:

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



Info and registraton details will be coming soon via member email for our next EHANZ Webinar for Plastic Free July. Check out the amazing Plastic Free July inspiration calendar below! It's packed with 31 ideas to try throughout the month - from simple swaps to clever plastic-free switches.

For more info & ideas:

<https://www.plasticfreejuly.org/>



Show us what you or your team are doing for Plastic Free July and be in to win a prize from the National Executive. Photo/s and short blurb to be sent via email: info@nzieh.org.nz by 31 July 2026.



Plastic Free July® Calendar

31 Days of Ideas

<p>Choosing one small step</p> <p>1</p>	<p>Using what we have</p> <p>2</p>	<p>Refusing plastic bags</p> <p>3</p>	<p>Ditching disposable cups</p> <p>4</p>		
<p>Avoiding bottled drinks</p> <p>5</p>	<p>Choosing plastic free packaging</p> <p>6</p>	<p>Avoiding pre-packed produce</p> <p>7</p>	<p>Avoiding plastic food wrap</p> <p>8</p>	<p>Bringing reusable containers</p> <p>9</p>	
<p>Skipping the straw</p> <p>10</p>	<p>Plastic free celebrations</p> <p>11</p>	<p>Swapping bottled soaps for bars</p> <p>12</p>	<p>Avoiding plastic bin liners</p> <p>13</p>	<p>Choosing loose tea</p> <p>14</p>	<p>Choosing reusable utensils</p> <p>15</p>
<p>Reducing plastic in the bathroom</p> <p>16</p>	<p>Hosting a morning tea</p> <p>17</p>	<p>Staying and enjoying</p> <p>18</p>	<p>Making household cleaners</p> <p>19</p>	<p>Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle</p> <p>20</p>	
<p>Shopping in bulk food stores</p> <p>21</p>	<p>Reducing plastic when travelling</p> <p>22</p>	<p>Trying reusable period products</p> <p>23</p>	<p>Reducing plastic with pets</p> <p>24</p>	<p>Choosing natural fibres</p> <p>25</p>	<p>Picking up litter</p> <p>26</p>
<p>Making personal care products</p> <p>27</p>	<p>Switching to plastic free stationery</p> <p>28</p>	<p>Choosing plastic free toys</p> <p>29</p>	<p>Learning more</p> <p>30</p>	<p>Small steps, big difference</p> <p>31</p>	

Join millions of people worldwide choosing to refuse single-use plastic.



Supported by

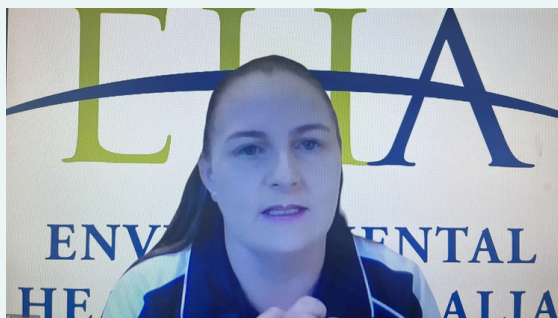
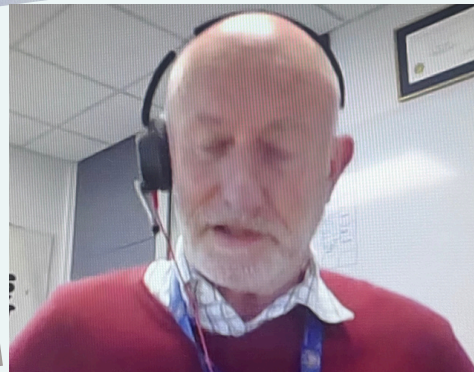
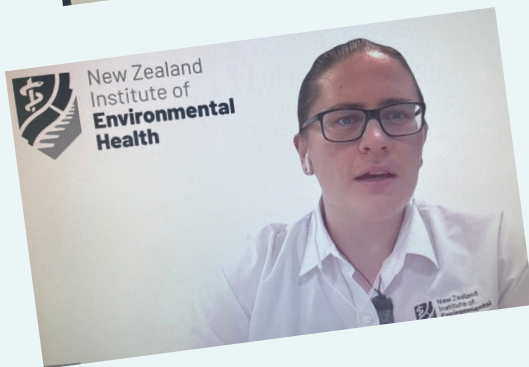
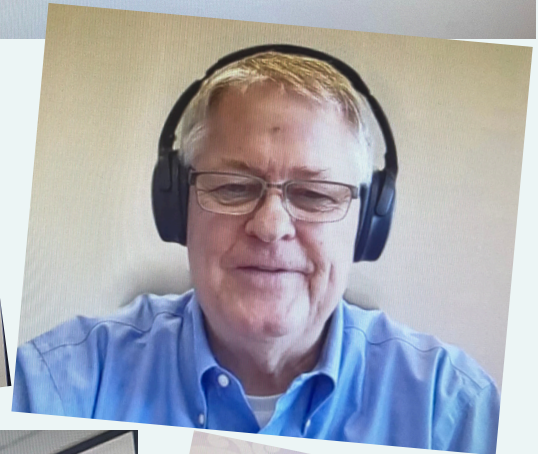
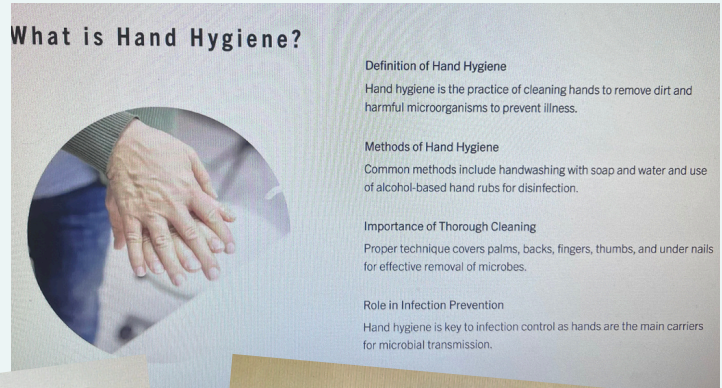


PLASTICFREEJULY.ORG



Webinar re-caps

A few pics from our recent EHANZ webinars - World Hand Hygiene Day - guest presenters Dr Barry Palmer (NZ) and Dr Greg Whiteley (AUS). World Food Safety Day - Professor Steve Flint (NZ) and Lydia Buchtmann (AUS). You can view the webinar recordings by logging into your myNZIEH account and selecting the training resources folder. Both webinars were hosted by NZIEH and EHA National Presidents Tanya Morrison and Melissa Burn. Thank you to everyone who attended the live webinars and participated in the Q&A sessions.



Environmental health plays a vital role in protecting the wellbeing of communities across Aotearoa. As demands on Territorial Authorities continue to evolve, access to consistent, high quality expertise has never been more important.

Food and Health Standards, now trading as Hill Labs, brings a unique capability to the sector as the only multi-region team of Environmental Health Officers in New Zealand available to support councils nationally. With coverage across more than 14 councils and ISO 17020 accreditation, the team provides reliable, scalable support wherever it is needed.

At the core of this service is a commitment to helping regulatory leaders maintain safe and healthy environments for their communities. The team of qualified and experienced Environmental Health Officers offers practical, on the ground expertise across a broad range of regulatory functions. These include food safety, alcohol licensing, health nuisances, district plan compliance, hygiene and sanitation, housing quality, hazardous substances, infectious and communicable diseases, noise management, and support during civil defence emergencies.

For many in the NZIEH community, Food and Health Standards and Auditing Solutions NZ will be familiar names. Since 2006, both organisations have built a strong reputation for delivering trusted environmental health services and food evaluation and verification across New Zealand. From April this year, these businesses began operating under a single, nationally recognised brand, Hill Labs.

This transition reflects a broader evolution in capability. Bringing these services together under Hill Labs strengthens the ability to deliver a more integrated offering across our customer base. It also provides streamlined access to testing, inspection, and verification services in one place. A practical example is Hill Labs' water testing capability, which offers one of the most extensive ranges of water tests available in New Zealand.

Hill Labs remains committed to supporting NZIEH and the wider environmental health sector, continuing to work alongside practitioners to protect and enhance public health outcomes across the country.

I recently attended the International Federation of Environmental Health (IFEH) World Congress as part of my continuing professional development—one of the many ways the New Zealand Defence Force supports ongoing learning and growth.

The congress covered a wide range of environmental and public health topics, including air and water quality, food safety, waste management, climate change, and disaster preparedness. It also explored workforce capability, professional standards, and the future direction of environmental health.

While attendance was lower than in previous years due to visa challenges and the situation in the Middle East, the event still provided valuable opportunities for discussion and connection. As the sole attendee from New Zealand, it was a great opportunity to network internationally and highlight the work being done here. It was also encouraging to see our very own Tanya Morrison's appointment to the president-elect position—very well deserved.

A key benefit of the congress was gaining insight into international approaches to environmental health, with useful context drawn from how different countries develop their workforce and manage public health challenges.

A nice side benefit of the trip was the chance to spend some time in Croatia and visit the historic city of Dubrovnik. The conference was held just south of the city in Srebreno, right on the coast, which made for a pretty impressive setting. It was warm enough to enjoy the beach—and even a quick swim—after tackling the steep walk up the hills behind the village, which border Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The next IFEH World Congress will be held in Uganda in 2028, hopefully providing another opportunity to engage globally and bring new ideas back to New Zealand.



WORLD ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DAY THEME FOR 2026

Theme

Environmental Health: Standing with Science to Protect Communities

Rationale

This theme directly aligns with WHO's science-based decision-making narrative and highlights the role of environmental health professionals as applied public health scientists translating research into policy, regulation and community protection.

Key Messages

- Environmental health practice is evidence-based public health action
- Science protects communities from environmental risks
- Environmental health professionals are the bridge between science and implementation

Suggested Activities

National level

- National Environmental Health Evidence Summit (jointly hosted with ministries of health/environment)
- Launch of a National Environmental Health Evidence Report summarizing environmental health risks and interventions
- Parliamentary or government briefing: *"Environmental Health and Evidence-Based Policy"*

Membership / Professional Associations

- Webinar series: "Environmental Health Science in Practice"
- Publication of case studies demonstrating evidence based EH interventions
- Recognition awards for innovation in environmental health science

Local / Community Level

- "Science in Action" **open day with environmental health officers**
- Public demonstrations: water testing, air quality monitoring, food safety science
- School outreach activities explaining **how environmental health science protects communities**

Additional Strategic Ideas for IFEH (2026)

To strengthen the global impact of WEHD:

1. Launch a **Global Environmental Health Evidence Declaration**
2. Create a **global data dashboard of environmental health risks**
3. Encourage countries to produce **"Environmental Health in Action" case studies**
4. Run a **student video competition on science-based environmental health**

President
Ass.prof. Bruno Cvetkovic





Kia ora colleagues, warm greetings from Australia. It is always a pleasure to connect with our environmental health whānau across the Tasman, and I continue to value the strong partnership between NZIEH and Environmental Health Australia. Our shared commitment to advancing environmental health practice, leadership and professional development remains a powerful foundation for collaboration.

I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to your President, Tanya Morrison, on her recent election as President Elect of the International Federation of Environmental Health (IFEH). This is a significant achievement and a reflection of her leadership, expertise and dedication to the profession. I look forward to working closely with Tanya in my role as Honorary Secretary of the IFEH, as we continue strengthening environmental health capacity and influence internationally.

Our joint professional development efforts also continue to thrive. In May, we delivered a successful World Hand Hygiene Day EHANZ webinar, bringing together practitioners from both countries to reflect on the importance of infection prevention and the role of EHOs in promoting safe systems. We celebrated World Food Safety Day on 10 June with another EHANZ webinar focused on practical, relevant insights for the profession. These sessions remain an excellent example of what we can achieve when we share knowledge, expertise and perspectives across jurisdictions.

I would also like to highlight the upcoming Environmental Health Australia National Conference, which will be held later this year. As we continue celebrating EHA's 90th anniversary, this conference will be a special opportunity to reflect on our history, recognise our achievements and look ahead to the future of environmental health in Australia and beyond. Abstracts have closed and the conference program is taking shape and will be released soon. The program will feature keynote speakers, technical sessions, industry engagement and networking opportunities, and we warmly welcome our New Zealand colleagues to our Nation's capital to join us for this milestone event.

The strength of our profession lies in collaboration. By continuing to work together through shared learning, advocacy, conferences and webinars we build a more resilient, informed and connected environmental health community across the Tasman and around the world.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to contribute to your newsletter. I look forward to continuing our partnership and to the important work ahead.

Melissa Burn
EHA National President



Practical training to help EHOs navigate climate challenges

Recent storms, flooding and climate-driven events across Aotearoa New Zealand have placed significant social strain on communities. Environmental Health Officers (EHOs) are often on the frontline in these situations, dealing with residents, landowners and businesses who may be experiencing loss, anxiety, anger or frustration caused by the inevitable disruption.

CERT's Situational Safety and Tactical Communications (SSTC) training provides EHOs with practical, field-ready skills to manage these heightened social challenges safely, professionally and effectively.

SSTC training equips environmental regulators with a safety mindset, helping officers recognise risk factors, assess emotional cues and adjust the way they engage with the public accordingly, says CERT Managing Director Brad Dannefaerd.

"After any natural disaster people may feel overwhelmed or distrustful of authority, and might take their stress out on regulators just trying to do their jobs. Being able to deal with challenging behaviours safely is critical."

SSTC specifically addresses how stress, emotion and crisis affect communication, enabling officers to engage with empathy while maintaining professional boundaries.

"Our focus on tactical communication and non-escalation. How to manage a situation to prevent it from escalating. We teach proven techniques to manage difficult, abusive or emotionally charged individuals, reducing the likelihood of conflict escalating into complaints or safety incidents. This is particularly valuable when enforcing health standards, addressing unsafe living conditions, or responding to non-compliance in communities already under pressure from climate impacts," he says.

The training also reinforces professionalism and confidence, helping officers separate personal emotion from organisational responsibility.

By building communication skills, emotional intelligence and situational safety skills, CERT's SSTC training can help Environmental Health Officers navigate the complex challenges of climate events on people's lives. This results in safer officers, better community outcomes and more constructive relationships as New Zealand communities navigate ongoing climate issues.

Styles Group Acoustic & Vibration Consultants - For all of your noise consulting and training needs contact: daniel@stylesgroup.co.nz

Robust. Accurate. Experts.

Our core work is environmental noise and vibration consulting. We also have specialised knowledge and experience in compliance and enforcement, including noise and vibration monitoring, expert evidence, analysis, drafting formal enforcement documents, training environmental health and enforcement officers, and noise contract management.

Policy and Resource Consents

Advice on policy, District Plan changes and reviews, NES and NPS implementation

Full acoustic assessments for any project, including major infrastructure and major development

Review of resource consents, acoustic reports, and management plans.

Development and review of effective and enforceable resource consent conditions.

Monitoring and Compliance

Noise and vibration measurements for compliance and monitoring.

Assist EHO's and compliance officers with noise complaint investigation plans with a view to achieving resolution.

Enforcement Strategy

Development of an organisational response framework for compliance, monitoring and enforcement functions.

Support with enforcement action, including abatement and infringement notice drafting.

Noise contract management and excessive noise complaint enforcement.

Training

Full or half-day noise training options for EHO's and compliance officers, including sound level measurements, s16, NZS standards, rating level calculations, mitigation, enforcement, and case studies.

Contact Daniel Winter to discuss your training requirements. We can tailor training options that are specific to your needs. E: daniel@stylesgroup.co.nz

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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The PHCC is independently funded by the Gama Foundation and hosted by the University of Otago



New Zealand Food Safety

Ministry for Primary Industries

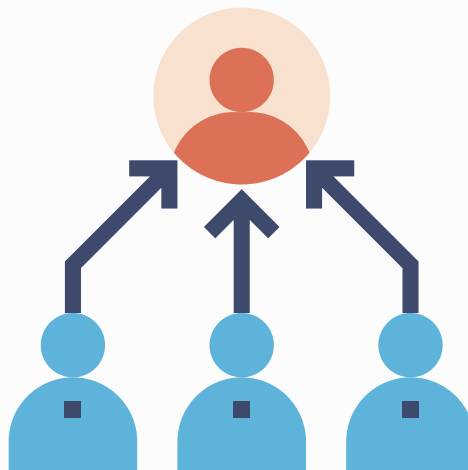
Manatū Ahu Matua

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 - Northland:
northlandbranchnzieh@gaggle.email

Northern - Auckland:
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/West Coast:
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 (excluding classifieds 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



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

Silver



Bronze



Friends of NZIEH

