PHAA and Planetary Health

Planetary Health has been described by Howard Frumkin as Public Health 3.0. It emerged in 2014 in a landmark paper in the Lancet: from public to planetary health. Since then it has developed in several dimensions and is yet to reach a firm end-stage. How Ecohealth, One Health, Global Health, political ecology and human ecology fit into this concept is still evolving. However, as an umbrella idea it succinctly captures the third historical wave of the public health movement, adding ecological determinants of health to environmental and social ones. It brings public health to the level described in the Ottawa Charter as the socioecological approach.

The Rockefeller Foundation has taken this on and worked with the Lancet to develop and promote the concept. Australia’s Tony Capon, now Professor of Planetary Health at the Public Health School at Sydney University, has been involved in this.

The Rockefeller Foundation–Lancet Commission defined planetary health as: “the achievement of the highest attainable standard of health, wellbeing, and equity worldwide through judicious attention to the human systems—political, economic, and social—that shape the future of humanity and the Earth’s natural systems that define the safe environmental limits within which humanity can flourish. Put simply, planetary health is the health of human civilisation and the state of the natural systems on which it depends.”

Out of the Lancet Rockefeller Foundation report in 2016, the Planetary Health Alliance has been established in New York. Its aim is to “to build a rigorous evidence base for informing policy solutions aimed at optimizing both human health and environmental stewardship objectives.” PHAA has joined this Alliance.

The Ecology and Environment Special Interest Group thinks it important politically and as a global leader in the public health movement that PHAA be involved in this emerging development.

Several articles in this edition of Intouch expand on this idea and how PHAA might be involved.

- Dr Peter Tait, Co-Convenor of the PHAA Ecology and Environment Special Interest Group

Planetary Health – caring for the planet to care for us

Dr Peter Tait, Co-Convenor of the PHAA Ecology and Environment Special Interest Group

As I sit typing this I am aware that I sit on Ngunnawal country, and that you as you read this will be on another of Australia’s (or indeed elsewhere’s) First Nation people’s country. I note here that country has a particular meaning. I also note that that country sits on a planet we call Earth and our planet Earth is hurtling through the spacetime fabric of the universe. So I acknowledge too that I am a part of the fabric of the universe, and connected to the physical, chemical and biological cycles of our Earth.

Further I am aware that being part of the ecosystem I am in a relationship with the planet and in a relationship with all the other animals, plants, fungi, microbes and other living things who also inhabit this planet. We all share this world.

My species Homo sapiens also has a collective relationship with Earth. Like all relationships, Homo sapiens’ relationship requires work. At the moment it is going through a rough patch; we are not treating our planet well and indeed our politico-economic systems seem to have forgotten we have any relationship beyond an exploitative one. Within this narrow frame we are tearing apart the ecological systems which provide and support our existence and the existence of so many other species.

So what to do? And how to do it?

Kerry Arabena has suggested that all humans are indigenous to the universe and have a role to take care of our planet. This borders on and complements the idea of caring for country. How do we care for our planet? First we need to reconnect with the planet – recognise we need a good relationship, and work out how to live on it respectfully in-tune with the natural world (other species and the physical, chemical and biological systems). That is, building a working relationship with our Earth. The Frank Fenner Foundation (PHAA is a member through the ACT Branch) based on Stephen Boyden’s work calls this biosensitivity and promotes the idea of living biosensitively through research, education and advocacy.

Beyond advocacy however, there is the need to create political economy change. It is essential that a biosensitive approach is built into human governance so that the politico-economic system promotes a healthy working relationship with our planet. To do this effectively the planet and other species need to be represented in governance. Commissioners for Sustainability and EPAs are tentative first steps toward this, but they are grounded in the current system. A new system of governance will have the planet’s interests accounted for up-front.

Additionally, transforming our governance system so that it promotes wise decision making across the whole gamut of health related societal issues is needed. This happens when we strengthen democracy, by which I mean bringing greater structured citizen participation into the governance decision-making system.

So for me Planetary Health is the outcome of humans having a good relationship with our planet so that we support the planet who supports us at societal and individual levels to achieve our potential as people (see figure). It is recognising my place in the universe, caring for my planet and respecting the place of the First Nations’ peoples.
The Adani Carmichael coalmine will be a global public health atrocity.

Covering 28,000 hectares of land on First Nation’s Wangan and Jagalingou country, it would cover an area more than five times the size of Sydney Harbour.

Adani commenced construction of its Carmichael coalmine last month. The mine is projected to provide over 60 million tonnes of coal per year for the next 60 years to India - a country where over one million people die from air pollution each year.

Coal is detrimental to people and planetary health. Emissions from coal combustion (particulate matter, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, mercury, arsenic and carbon dioxide, to name a few) cause substantial increases in cardiovascular disease and acute cardiovascular events, acute and chronic respiratory disease, impaired childhood lung development and premature deaths.

Burning fossil fuels such as coal is the single biggest driver of global warming and climate change. Climate change has already resulted in an increase in the global mean surface temperature, extreme weather events such as heatwaves and floods, glacial melting and rising sea levels, and changes in the abundance, distribution and composition of species.

The Adani Carmichael coal mine is predicted to generate an estimated 4.7 billion tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions - more greenhouse gas than medium sized countries such as Malaysia or Austria, and more than 0.5% of the remaining global carbon budget for limiting warming to two degrees Celsius as per the Paris Agreement. Further, it will open up the Galilee Basin to a potential nine additional coal mines which, if burnt, would release more than Australia’s current total emissions on an annual basis.

Australia’s iconic Great Barrier Reef is the canary in the coalmine of climate change. Suffering from back-to-back coral bleaching in 2016/7 causing two thirds of the reef to have been bleached, it is already significantly affected by climate change-related heatwaves and rising sea temperatures.

It is devastating to face losing one of the Earth’s great natural wonders. But further to this, coral reefs function in the earth’s ecosystem and, whilst we may not be acutely aware of it, they are vital to human health.

Coral reefs protect coastlines from the damaging effects of wave action and tropical storms, of which we can expect more with rising global temperatures. They are also the source of essential nutrients for marine food chains which then become part of our own food sources, and they assist with nutrient recycling and carbon and nitrogen fixing which help to regulate the Earth’s temperature.

Coral reef scientists believe that the reef can be saved from climate change, but are also clear that the window of opportunity to do this is fast closing.

This mine is not compatible with necessary action on climate change. There is no carbon budget for new coal mines in Australia - over 90% of our coal reserves must remain in the ground.

The decision to go ahead with the Adani coal mine will tell us two things. Firstly, it will show us how committed the Australian government is to acting on climate change. The federal government is considering giving a $900 million taxpayer funded loan through the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility (NAIF), which would be used to build a rail line from the Adani mine to Abbott Point port. If this loan goes ahead, it is clear that our leaders are not serious about what has been described as the existential crisis of our time.

Secondly, in the absence of government leadership, it will show us how willing Australian citizens are to step up and instigate change at a time when it is urgently needed.

Like the Franklin River, this mine is a call to action for all Australians - especially health professionals.

Human health is intimately connected to the health of the planetary ecosystem within which we co-exist. We have an ethical imperative to stand in unified opposition to this mine. Or, better put, we have a timely opportunity to stand in unified support for a healthy planet and healthy people.

There is still time to stop the Adani Carmichael mine. To join the delegation of health professionals taking a stance against the Adani Carmichael coal mine in December or find out how else you can be involved, please email health.on.the.frontline@gmail.com.
Planetary Health - Ignore it at our peril
Dr Liz Hanna, Honorary Senior Fellow, Climate Change Institute, Australian National University

“We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect.” (Aldo Leopold 1949)

Has the human species evolved into homo-lemming? Once, so clever, are we now driving ourselves towards annihilation?

After a long evolutionary history as hunter gatherers, human societies springboarded with the advent of agriculture. It is no accident that agriculture emerged quasi-simultaneously on four continents, using distinctive endemic food sources. This great leap forward only occurred when the climate settled to its present warm and unusually stable level at a global average of 13.5°C.

The mechanism underpinning this unlikely synchrony among disparate communities remains a mystery, yet the significance of a stable climate within a perfect “Goldilocks” range cannot be overestimated. Notwithstanding, the potential for additional contributing factors ought not be discounted, despite an absence of postulation of any likely candidates. Sudden synchrony of such a major human cognitive evolutionary leap is unlikely without trade communications.

The climate now provided perfect ambient conditions for food production. Stable temperature and rainfall patterns are critical to achieve reliable yields. Abundant soil nutrients, unpolluted river systems and clean air provided the additional necessary ingredients. Applying astute powers of observation, trial and error testing and passing on knowledge of emergent agricultural techniques, human ingenuity was ripe to transform nature’s gifts into reliable food supplies, in quantities sufficient for surplus production and trade. Improved nutrition and freedom from the toil of hunting and gathering, allowed for diversification of industry, and human development. Humans flourished and populations grew.

Roll forward twelve thousand years, and we find a polluted, overcrowded planet. Humankind has become a victim of our own success, due the relentless march of extended human survival, escalating resource extraction, now on an industrial scale, and waste generation that now fouls the very ecosystem services that sustain our health.

A human population of 7.1 billion, whereby an estimated 24% enjoy the benefits of highly developed lifestyles is evidently unsustainable. This year 2017, the Earth Overshoot Day was 2nd August. By that date, we had used the entire year’s supply of renewable planetary resources. Current estimates suggest we would need 5.2 planet Earths for the entire world to live the Australian lifestyle, yet only 0.6 planets if all the world adopted the lifestyle currently experienced in India.

Despite significant progress towards achieving SDG 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, we are still well short of targets, and climate change and other anthropogenic degradation of ecosystems is escalating the challenge. For example, back-to-back droughts have left at least 8.5 million people in Ethiopia in need of food aid, and in the Somali region, rains have failed for the third consecutive year, causing a breakdown in pastoral livelihoods.

Currently, 842 million people worldwide suffer from hunger, almost 12 percent of the world’s population, and two billion people suffer micronutrient deficiency. Half the world’s 6 million child deaths in 2015 were associated with undernutrition.

In addition to failing to feed the world, at present we cannot ensure global access to clean safe drinking water. Half a billion people in the world face severe water scarcity all year round and two-thirds of the global population (4.0 billion people) live under conditions of severe water scarcity at least 1 month of the year. Furthermore, globally, at least 2 billion
people use a drinking water source contaminated with faeces which transmits diseases such as diarrhoea, cholera, dysentery, typhoid, and polio and is estimated to cause 502,000 diarrhoeal deaths each year. By 2025, half of the world’s population will be living in water-stressed areas.

Humanity’s negligence in protecting planetary health has delivered anthropogenic climate change, which further threatens food security as crop yields are highly sensitive to changes in temperature and water availability. Air temperatures above approximately 30°C are generally associated with reduced yields for rain-fed crops, and crop water stress independently drives yield loss through lowered soil moisture which reduces evaporative cooling whilst increasing crop water loss.

Globally, drought frequency and intensity has risen measurably, and are projected to further increase leading to longer, slower recovery and more time spent in drought. Flood hazards are also projected to increase in more than half the world’s regions. Global warming and increased rain variability is anticipated to outstrip any small projected gains in additional CO₂, or modest yield gains in the higher latitude regions.

Agriculture, on this fertile productive planet gave us sustenance and allowed us to flourish, yet we have since steadfastly destroyed its life-giving capacity. If humanity seeks to survive, then we'd best tend Mother Earth, for without her wellbeing, we die.

Addressing public health impacts of disasters: the Sustainable Development Goals

Dr Ingrid Johnston, Senior Policy Officer at the PHAA

What is a disaster? A cyclone surely would be, wouldn’t it? Consider three cyclones which each made landfall with the same category 4 status. The first lands on an uninhabited stretch of coastline of a large land mass. A few trees are downed, but there are no injuries or deaths. No aid response was initiated. The second lands in a large, western, metropolitan city on a large land mass, with high rise buildings. These buildings are strongly constructed, and most people either stayed inside these strong buildings, went to evacuation centres, or left the area during the warning phase. Seven houses lost their roofs, and four people were injured. In the hours after the cyclone passed, emergency services arrived, taking the injured to hospital and making emergency repairs to the houses. The third cyclone lands in a small remote island in a developing country. Here, houses are poorly constructed, and the island is so small that there is nowhere to escape to. People gathered in the strongest buildings on the island, the school and church. The cyclone destroyed half the houses on the island, 80% of the crops were destroyed, three people died, and eight were injured. An aid agency and government officials arrived by boat when the seas had calmed enough for safe travel, three days after the cyclone, and food aid is provided a week after that. Which of these events is a disaster?

A disaster occurs when an extreme event overcomes the local capacity to respond. This means it is almost entirely dependent on the pre-existing vulnerabilities of the communities and the country in which they live. It also means that disasters are entirely preventable.

As climate change increases its impact, extreme weather events are becoming more severe and more common. Especially in developing countries, these events affect most of the Sustainable Development Goals, with clear and urgent implications for public health.

Disasters, especially on remote islands in developing countries, have wide-ranging and long-term effects. When it takes two years for a community to ‘fully recover’, there is may not be enough time between events to recover. Under conditions of limited time and money, and with funding mechanisms geared towards response rather than prevention, the kind of prevention work needed to address the SDGs and stop these events from becoming disasters is difficult to achieve.

Climate change risks making a continued focus on recovery after disasters a losing battle, and prevention activities must be prioritised. When a disaster occurs, the hero factor kicks in and aid arrives in abundance. During the quieter times when prevention and development activities should be occurring, the money dries up. Access to funding for prevention must be made easier, especially for developing nations without the resources and capacity to compete with developed countries for a limited available pool of funds. Governance and coordination across all agencies and levels of government must be improved to ensure the range of disaster impacts are adequately addressed, and there is equity of access for communities once the TV cameras have left.

This article was adapted from a presentation given at the Emerging Health Policy Research Conference, Menzies Centre for Health Policy, University of Sydney, 27th July 2017.
What approaches and strategies are most likely to result in behavioural change of individuals to reduce their carbon footprint?

Authors: Stephen Bomball, Jeremy Downie, Lucy Jellie, Callum Morse, Oleg Peselzon, Thomas Stratfold, Tze Hao Wong, Vincent Yip

1Year 4 ANU medical students, 2017

A report on this topic was written for the Ecology and Environment SIG at PHAA by students in year 4 medicine at ANU as part of their Population Health Theme curriculum. This is a brief summary of the full report.

In 2014 humans emitted 36 gigatonnes of greenhouse gases annually (estimated as CO₂ equivalent), an average of about 5 tonnes per person globally (1,4). The Australian per capita average was about 15.4 tonnes per person (1). Figure 1 shows current modelling projections that predict that we will likely overshoot a ‘safe’ temperature rise of 2°C in the coming decades, reaching temperatures well above this by 2100. If greenhouse gas emissions were stopped immediately, a proportion of anthropometric CO₂ is likely to be resorbed over decades, but a proportion will remain for millennia. We need to understand that what we put there cannot be undone quickly and that serious action needs to be taken now to start to bring carbon emissions to zero (2, 3, 4).

However, despite the seemingly compelling data, many individuals do not take action to reduce their carbon emissions. What is needed to encourage individuals to change their behaviour?

An appreciation of the stages of behavioural change models often used in health promotion is helpful for developing environmental and health policies geared to individuals undertaking behavioural change (5). Doppelt modified the transtheoretical model to apply to climate and environmental behaviours creating the 5-D model of behaviour change (6). It consists of the following stages, where each stage represents distinct actions and thoughts:

- Disinterest
- Deliberation
- Design
- Doing
- Defend

For an individual to change their behaviour, they must be motivated, encouraged, and able to maintain the change. Different stages can involve different approaches and techniques to motivate, encourage, and maintain behavioural change, as shown in Figure 2.
In order to engage individuals, Doppelt suggests five broad mechanisms:

1) A disturbance in routine or a crisis that prompts a person to question their behaviour and its effects on the environment,
2) Informing people of the benefits of adopting sustainable behaviours and the consequences of not,
3) Instilling first-hand inspiration through first-hand experience of seeing benefits of sustainable behaviours,
4) Allowing people to see a variety of realistic steps to achieve change, and providing them with the opportunity to do so, and
5) Providing social support, allowing people to discuss and debate the pros and cons of adopting change

Using multiple methods to target different levels of the 5-D framework are more likely to achieve outcomes across a broader range of individuals. Individuals also live within larger groups and interact with them, a concept also well known to population health (such as shown in the Dahlgren and Whitehead model). Barriers to change therefore need to be addressed at the different stages and levels - some of these barriers are described in Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S-D stage</th>
<th>Barriers for Individual and Household</th>
<th>Barriers for Community</th>
<th>Barriers for Corporations</th>
<th>Barriers for Government</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Disinterest</td>
<td>Psychological “dissociation” from nature</td>
<td>Lack of engagement within the community to act on climate change</td>
<td>Financial disincentives to changing behaviour</td>
<td>Lack of community motivation for change</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>-A lack of scientific communication between the public and climate scientists</td>
<td>-Availability of infrastructure to allow for low-carbon living</td>
<td>-Market factors</td>
<td>-Political lobbyists affecting motivation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>-Poor insight into how much an individual actually contributes to greenhouse emissions</td>
<td>-Psychological resistance</td>
<td>-Regulatory factors</td>
<td>-Lack of incentives for uptake of changes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deliberation</td>
<td>-Willingness to gamble on one’s future</td>
<td>-Fear of change</td>
<td>-Psychological resistance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Design</td>
<td>-Lack of scientific understanding – individuals don’t know how to design a behavioural change</td>
<td>-Cost of maintaining low-carbon practices</td>
<td>-Cost of improving and maintaining low-carbon infrastructure</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doing</td>
<td>-Lack of positive reinforcement from local communities</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Defend</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-Political motivations to support community base</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1: Barriers to change within 5-D framework
Some ideas for encouraging behavioural change at different stages are given below - some focus solely on the individual, while others involve a community or organisational level response to encourage individual change. More detailed information and relevant references supporting the ideas are available from the full report.

- Broadly communicate climate science and the effect on the individual in an easy to understand method to the general community
- Use a self-transcendence promoting message unified across all media to promote changes to behaviour on multiple fronts
- Focus on intrinsic rewards as well as extrinsic rewards for the individual
- Aim to both improve an individual’s health status and reduce their carbon footprint simultaneously
- Focus on community activities to encourage individuals to change their consumption habits
- Use roleplay simulation to aid individuals in changing their everyday behaviour to be more carbon-conscious
- Utilise product labelling to encourage ‘green’ purchases by consumers
- Use default instead of ‘opt-in’ green energy billing by energy companies
- Government policy to promote industries in low-carbon infrastructure, decarbonisation of transport/energy sectors and supporting local and low-carbon trade
- Facilitate cooperation of the scientific and economic communities to work towards a ‘greener’ existence

We suggest that poor communication and poor use of incentives along with different levels of understanding and values are key factors dictating willingness for individuals and households to reduce carbon footprints. Lack of community engagement, limited low-carbon infrastructure, and market and regulatory factors are barriers that must be overcome to encourage communities and corporations to become more proactive in adopting carbon conscious practices.

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Book Review: Climate Wars

Dr Rosalie Schultz, PHAA Ecology and Environment SIG, Doctors for the Environment Australia

The following review was first published in Croakey.

Climate Wars, Mark Butler, Melbourne University Press, 2017. 180pp ISSN 9780522 871685

In Australia’s climate wars, Mark Butler, Shadow Minister for Climate Change and Energy, leads an ALP army and his position determines his perspective of the wars.

The opening chapter “Making Sense of Climate Change” outlines both fundamentals of climate science, and projected impacts of climate change in Australia. We face many risks: increasingly destructive bushfires, extreme heat, impacts on water supply and agriculture, rising sea levels and coastal erosion, negative economic and financial impacts, regional instability and threats to our national security.

Subsequent chapters detail Butler’s approach to diverse elements of his portfolio. Australia’s energy sector, manufacturing and mining, land management, low carbon communities, transport and how we can transition to a low-carbon economy while promoting justice are well covered. It is refreshing to read of the ALP’s commitment to the wellbeing of both the environment and workers.

However, Butler writes as a politician in a country at war over climate. Australians are at war against both the reality of climate change, and with each other about how we should respond. Butler’s Climate Wars highlights the contrast between Australia’s war on climate and the approach of the UK, where agreement about the science and collaboration between all sides of politics since the 1980s have led to effective policies and arguably control of emissions. Despite describing how collaboration has occurred in UK, Climate Wars doesn’t reach out towards collaboration in Australia. Rather it fuels on-going battles, blaming Liberal and Green party politics for our current situation with no acknowledgment or discussion about the ALP’s role. Nor do we read of the influence of different contributors to Liberal Party policy, who may have also impacted on ALP policy.

The inherent conflict of Australian society, based on a destructive relationship with the environment, is outside Butler’s scope. Climate change is only one of many impending environmental crises, and major social change is needed. However neither Butler nor the ALP see beyond the climate wars.

Butler’s approach limits his perspective and capacity to criticise ALP decisions, such as Rudd’s laughable target of 5% emissions reduction, and the ALP’s confused position on supporting Adani to mine enormous amounts of coal.

Butler supports the fundamentals of economic rationalism and the myth of decoupling carbon emissions from economic growth. This ignores the absolute limits to planet earth. Butler also propounds the nonsense that Australia can support a much larger population overlooking that food production in Australia already faces challenges from climate change, land degradation, and competition from mining and urban expansion.

The strength of this book is the challenge it places on the ALP to lead on effective climate policy. The book would be further strengthened by acknowledgement that the ALP has misjudged some aspects of climate policy, and that action on climate change must engage all sides of politics. Without such acknowledgements, I worry that the book contributes to the Madhouse effect: how climate change denial is threatening our planet, destroying our politics and driving us crazy.
Take action and join the 'Our Climate, Our Health' campaign

The Climate and Health Alliance (CAHA) has recently extended its thanks to PHAA, as a much-appreciated CAHA member for its support of the collaborative Our Climate, Our Health campaign. This campaign acknowledges that as health professionals, we are already seeing the devastating effects of climate change on our community – from worsening extreme weather events to increased spread of infectious diseases. As respected and trusted community members, we also have the opportunity to encourage our members of Parliament to act on climate change now, through implementing a National Strategy for Climate, Health and Well-being for Australia.

The Public Health Association of Australia has been a valuable part of creating and launching a Framework for a National Strategy on Climate, Health and Well-being for Australia. This campaign has prompted the Australian Labor Party to announce that, in government, they will create and implement a national climate-health plan based on this Framework. This is a big win, and there is still much work to do to make this national strategy a reality. That's where you as a PHAA member can help!

As part of building political support for a national climate-health strategy, campaign supporters have been meeting with Members of Parliament as well as Ministers and bureaucrats to introduce them to the Framework and seek their support for its adoption and implementation. PHAA Members are encouraged to join other healthcare professionals and students in engaging with their Member of Parliament or Senator on this issue. The campaign team at CAHA can provide assistance in setting up these meetings, and help you prepare – perhaps even find a colleague to accompany you.

If you would like to get involved, you can:

1. Sign-up to support the campaign [here](#)
2. Email your MP [here](#) (email template provided)
3. Meet with your MP or Senator to discuss the importance of acting on climate change for health's sake. You can learn more about meeting with your MP [here](#).

Together we can encourage our politicians to protect the health of our communities now and for future generations.

- There have been 13 meetings by individual health professionals with MPs/Senators to date, with more locked in and many more being planned.
- Out of these meetings, 10 MPs have declared their support for a National Strategy!
- At the time of writing, 211 emails have been sent to MPs calling for a National Strategy on Climate, Health and Well-being

Health professionals are trusted and respected members of the community. By meeting with your MP or Senator to express your concerns, and asking them to commit to a national strategy, you can lend your voice, and your professional status, to bring about change on this very important issue.

Please consider getting involved by following the links above.

The organisation whose logos appear below are all supporting the Our Climate Our Health campaign.

www.ourclimate-ourhealth.org.au

First photo: Fiona Armstrong, Executive Director of the Climate and Health Alliance with PHAA President David Templeman after she was awarded the 2017 Tony McMichael Public Health Ecology and Environment Award.

Second photo: Dr Peter Sainsbury, President of the Climate and Health Alliance receiving a 2017 PHAA President's Award.
Are you interested in the ecological and environmental determinants of health? Passionate about climate change and planetary health in the anthropocene? If you’re a PHAA member you can join the PHAA Ecology and Environment Special Interest Group, and at the recent PHAA Planetary Health Symposium there was a general consensus to set up within PHAA a Planetary Health Hub for all Special Interest Groups to join.

PHAA Ecology and Environment Special Interest Group

The aim of the Ecology and Environment SIG (EESIG) is to help create a fair, ecologically sustainable, health promoting humane society in Australia and around the world through strong advocacy and collaborative partnerships. The EESIG has written policies and position statements on topics such as Ecologically Sustainable Human Society, Limits to growth and public health Policy, Safe Climate, and many more. It is also an active participant in environmental health campaigns such as Our Climate, Our Health, Stop Adani and various fossil fuel divestment campaigns. The EESIG welcomes contributions to its work from all PHAA members with an interest in environment-health issues, and invites them to join the Group to keep in touch with its latest activities and projects. Please email either of the Co-Convenors below for more information:

Peter Tait: aspetert@bigpond.com  Lea Merone: lea@doctors.org.uk

Follow the Ecology and Environment SIG on Twitter @PHAA_Eco

PHAA Planetary Health Hub

At the Planetary Health Symposium at the recent PHAA Symposia, there was a general consensus to go ahead to set up within PHAA a Planetary Health entity for the Special Interest Groups to join. The concept gives a point of coalescence for the various other health focus areas to come to this topic, including One Health, Ecohealth, Global Health, political economy and political ecology.

The purpose of the Hub would be to coordinate policy development and implementation across SIGs in the socio-ecological health space, similar to involvement of Indigenous aspects to all policies. This fits into a broader realisation that more inter-SIG coordination is needed around cross-cutting topic areas.

The Planetary Health Hub is still under development, and more updates will be provided as it takes shape. If you are interested in finding out more information about the Hub, please email Dr Peter Tait at aspetert@bigpond.com.
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PHAA Welcomes New Members

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Angelica Quatela NSW
Alexandra Bhatti NSW
Rachel Smith NSW
Jason Drinkwater ACT
Davina Cohen VIC
Allison Gray NT
Ruline Ketauwo QLD
Jossie Bakri WA
Helen Brown WA
Heidi Shukralla WA
Melinda Stanners QLD
Jane Edwards VIC
Juliana Betts VIC
Carmelita Salguet VIC
Heather Worth NSW
Ushma Wadia WA
Carmen Vargas VIC
Miaowen (Mia) Zhou VIC
Salma Ahmed QLD
Alycia Jacob WA
Niranjani Wickramasinghe WA
Rachel Farber NSW
Libby Carr QLD
Scott McCamish VIC
Gayle Barton NSW
Katharine Terry QLD
Li Li QLD
Lettie Pule SA
Alberthina Kayame NSW
Emma Curnin TAS
Frances Turland SA
Jenny Job QLD
Cassidy Nelson VIC
Helena King QLD
Camilla Blasius QLD
Alice Russack NSW
Krystle Prenter VIC
Mallory Young QLD
Christopher Breheny VIC
Penelope Hill VIC
Linda Slack-Smith WA
Claire Mustchin VIC
Lucie Magill QLD
Carla Vasoli QLD
Lucy Simmonds SA
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- The right to vote and hold office in PHAA
- Opportunity to join up to 17 national Special Interest Groups (SIGs) (fees apply)
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- Reduction in fees to the PHAA annual conference and other various special interest conferences
- Access to PHAA forums and input into developing policies
- Access to emailed list of public health job vacancies
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- The ability to participate in, benefit from, or suggest and promote public health advocacy programs

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Up to two staff members may attend PHAA Annual Conference and special interest conferences, workshops and seminars at the reduced member registration rate

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