

COORDINATOR'S REPORT 2019

The global upwelling of citizen action on the climate emergency and the opportunities it presents for NTN to ensure solutions, policies and actions are in accordance with a toxic free future is our overarching mission. Ocean plastic and chemical pollution and the march of the waste incineration industry have been our major areas of activist work. At the same time we are focusing on solutions and growing the zero waste movement and working to turn industrial pesticide-dependent agriculture into a regenerative farming movement. Increasingly we do this against the backdrop of hostile government agencies and disinterested mainstream media. Many of us have also faced significant life challenges in 2019.

Mariann Lloyd Smith

Colleen Hartland took my place at 2018 POPRC working with the fire fighter's union to get PFOA recommended for listing. We (Mariann, John, Lee, Colleen) all attended the 3 chemical conventions COP – where we finally got PFOA the Teflon chemical internationally banned. The Australian fire fighters worked closely with us and IPEN and were fantastic. The insecticide dicofol was also banned.

We also helped to achieve changes to Basel Convention to ban exports of mixed plastic to NON OECD countries resulting in send backs (returned waste) by Indonesia and Malaysia.

NTN's Ocean Pollutant guide was released and translated into Chinese. A formal Chinese launch will be attended by Dr Matt Landos. The pollutant guide is also being translated into Indonesian with a forward by their minister. Jo, Matt and I are currently working on an Ocean Pollutants & Fisheries report for IPEN.

Jane Bremmer

Plastics and chemical work

Jane and Lee attended the global Break Free from Plastics meeting in Thailand representing NTN and IPEN. Jane provided a report back for NTN about this meeting. NTN and IPEN both participate in collaborations with international groups working to address the global plastics crisis with a focus on source reduction and a cap on raw materials plastic production. This includes participating in working groups on global policy and waste trade.

Zero Waste and incineration work

Launched the Interactive Map of waste incinerator proposals around Australia on the new ZEROWASTE AUSTRALIA website and it's going really well. This has already received international praise.

Victoria

Jane worked with the Victorian Greens on developing an open letter signed by national ngos to demand a moratorium on approvals, accompanied by factsheets and letters sent to all Victorian local governments. Jane coordinated the media on this, which included international media coverage and some local coverage. Lee gave a presentation to the Victorian parliament on the dangers of incineration, which was well received. Jo and Jane have this year engaged with most state governments (ie Qld, vic and NSW) on their waste to energy and circular economy policies contributing to policy development opportunities, inquiries and community and media outreach.

NSW

Jane continues to work with and support the NSW groups opposing incineration. The massive NSW project has been appealed by the proponent and is now with the Land and Environment court with a hearing set for October. Jane made submissions on behalf of NTN and engages with the NSW lawyers. The Conciliation conference has been postponed due to the proponent amending the project and there will now be a new assessment process but still ultimately decided by the L&E Court.

Jo and Jane have engaged with the state government on their new waste management policy and assisted the community to contribute with data. Working with this community to bring some international speakers to Australia early next year.

The new [Australian Public Health Association](#) meta analysis on incinerator health impacts has been great news for the campaign and Jane will work with the author to promote it in the coming months.

Pesticides

Following the Monsanto cases there has been considerable community awareness and action on urban applications. Jane suggested that NTN needed some visibility on this issue and a portal to support the growing movement to get pesticides out of the urban environment. Either a new website or dedicate page on our existing website will be organised.

WA has announced review of its state pesticide regulations and the APVMA have also just recently announced the same. A clear deregulation agenda is being pushed right now and NTN members are encouraged to engage at both a state and federal level.

Lee Bell

Crossover work with IPEN. Co-authored Dioxins in eggs study in Ghana with Jindrich Petrlik and others (a lot of e-waste ends up at the Agbogbloshe site for burning recovery and burning it creates brominated and chlorinated dioxins). The study found some of the highest levels of dioxins in history in the eggs from the site. The results were released at the BRS COP which I attended and caused African agreement to tighten restrictions under Stockholm on Low POPs content levels. This means less toxic waste can be exported to developing countries – especially incinerator ash. Took 13 years of campaigning to get better Low POPs content levels.

Working on similar egg contamination study with Yuyun and Jindrich on Indonesian tofu factories burning plastic for fuel based on waste plastic from Australia and elsewhere. Again very high levels of dioxins found in eggs at this site. Highest recorded in Asia. Strategy is to get brominated dioxins listed on Stockholm convention.

Working with Yuyun and Biodiversity Research Institute on a 3 year mercury project in Indonesia. Attended asgm gold processing sites ..got good footage of gold ore ball milling and rare cyanidation footage but got also some mercury exposure poisoning. Publications planned on non-combustion technology for POPs destruction and for dealing with plastic waste.

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