

# ICEHO Bulletin 8



International Consortium of  
Environmental History  
Organizations

April 2016

*The International Consortium of Environmental History Organizations is a 'network of networks' for environmental history in universities, museums, publishers and other institutions.*

*We sponsor International Congresses every 5 years (next one in 2019). Between Congresses, we work actively to promote environmental history in all its forms: as scholarship and research, informing public policy and education, and in promoting collaboration between environmental historians around the world.*

***Our website is regularly updated – we are keen to publicise your conferences and events:***

<http://www.iceho.org/>

## From the Editor

This is the first bulletin since our very successful **General Assembly** on 1 April in **Seattle, USA**, hosted by the American Society of Environmental History. Thanks to Lisa Mighetto and the ASEH conference for making this possible.



The main business of the Assembly was the election of a new team, including a new President, Vice-President and 7 board members for the next 3 year term (2016-2019). I am now *ex officio* Past President, but will continue on as your Bulletin editor.

In this Bulletin we welcome **Verena Winiwarter** as President, and **Claudia Leal** as Vice-President. **Dagomar Degroot** has agreed to serve as Secretary for the rest of the term of former Secretary, Dolly Jørgensen who has stepped down because of pressure of work. The formal terms of office of the Secretary and the Treasurer end in 2017.

Thanks to the sterling work of **Nominating Committee**, chaired by Cindy Ott, we had a very good list of candidates for election to our new board.

Congratulations to our new board members and to the diverse member organizations they represent:

**James Beattie** (New Zealand; Waikato Historical Research Centre)

**Hou Shen** (China: Association for East Asian Environmental History AEAH)

**Siddhartha Krishnan** (India; The Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment ATREE)

**Claudia Leal** (Colombia; Sociedad Latinoamericana y Caribeña de Historia Ambiental SOLCHA)

**Alan MacEachern** (Canada; Network in the Canadian History of the Environment NiCHE)

**Mucha Museumwa** (South Africa; South African Historical Society)

**Daisy Onyige** (Nigeria; African Network for Environmental Humanities)

We look forward to working together, and to representing all the organizations that come together under the ICEHO banner.

*Libby Robin*

*Australian National University, Canberra*

## Introducing...

### Claudia Leal – incoming Vice-President

**Claudia Leal** was born and lives at 2,600 meters above sea level in Bogotá (capital of Colombia), where she works as associate professor at the Department of History at Universidad de los Andes. She holds a Ph.D. in Geography from UC Berkeley, was co-president of the Latin American and Caribbean Society for Environmental History (SOLCHA) and fellow of the Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society in Munich. She identifies with mountains but has done most of her research on rainforest regions and on the transition from slavery to freedom. Her book manuscript *Landscapes of Freedom*, on the formation of a rainforest peasantry after emancipation in the Pacific coast of Colombia, should be published soon. She is currently working on the history of nature conservation, again in her home country, co-editing a book on Latin American and Caribbean environmental history, and editing another book on Colombian environmental histories with articles (mostly) by her former students. She is also interested in the history of animals.



As ICEHO Vice-President she wishes to contribute to the organization of the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Congress. She plans on strengthening the relations between societies and researchers working in various parts of the world, expanding and tightening the global network of environmental history.

## Dagomar Degroot – incoming Secretary



**Dagomar Degroot** is an assistant professor of environmental history at Georgetown University, Washington DC. He is the author of a forthcoming book, *The Frigid Golden Age: Experiencing Climate Change in the Dutch Republic, 1560-1720*.

Dagomar also won the 2015 ESEH Article Prize for "Never Such Weather Known in these Seas: Climatic Fluctuations and the Anglo-Dutch Wars of the Seventeenth Century, 1652-1674."

As co-founder and co-director of the Climate History Network, Dagomar represents one of the 'theme network' members of ICEHO. He also hosts the Climate History Podcast, directs [HistoricalClimatology.com](http://HistoricalClimatology.com), and [GeorgetownEnvironmentalHistory.org](http://GeorgetownEnvironmentalHistory.org), and sits on the steering committee of the *War and Environment Network*, another ICEHO theme network.

As secretary of ICEHO, he plans to update and greatly expand our online presence. He will rebuild our website to make it easier to use, and pack it with new resources for teaching and research in environmental history. He will also give us a social media presence on Twitter, Facebook, and possibly Weibo, a Chinese microblogging site. He is leading a subcommittee of graduate student assistants who will help him manage these resources. For more, visit his website, at [DagomarDegroot.com](http://DagomarDegroot.com)

**And meet some of our new Board Members...**

## Daisy Onyige

**Chioma Daisy Onyige** (Daisy) is a member of the **African Environmental Humanities Network** in ICEHO and is a Senior Lecturer of Sociology and Criminology at the University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria. She is a pioneer fellow of the Global South Scholar in residence programme of the Graduate Institute for



International and Development Studies, Geneva, Switzerland; Fellow of the Rachel Carson Center, LMU, Munich, Germany; Fellow of the Africa Science Leadership Programme, University of Pretoria, South Africa; and recently a Commonwealth Research Fellow at the University of Oxford, United Kingdom. She is the Editor of "Indigenous Knowledge response to climate change". [www.africaclimatechange.com](http://www.africaclimatechange.com). She is a member of the African Network of Environmental History (ANEH). She is a regional representative for the Africa region at the International Sociological Association (ISA), RC32-Women in society. She is also an expert group member for Africa Scoping Deliverable 2b, Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), as well as a member of the Ecosystem Services Partnership (ESP), Thematic Working Group (TWG 2) –Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services; Sectorial Working Group (SWG 3) – Indigenous Peoples and local communities. As an ICEHO Board member, she plans to draw on her academic and pedagogical knowledge as well as her professional networks as an International scholar to help increase outreach in terms of ICEHO membership for the African region, and to especially work within that context to recruit member organisations from Africa into the ICEHO.

## Mucha Musemwa



**Mucha Musemwa** is Associate Professor of social and environmental history at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa, and Assistant Dean for Postgraduate Affairs in the Faculty of Humanities.

His monograph: *Water, History and Politics in Zimbabwe: Bulawayo's Struggles with the Environment, 1894-2008* was published in 2014 by Africa World Press, Trenton, New Jersey. He is current President of the **Southern African Historical Society**, an Editor of the *South African Historical Journal* and a foundation member of editorial board of *Water History* – the flagship journal of the International Water History Association (IWHA), another ICEHO member. As a board member, Mucha intends to work towards more diversity in ICEHO, particularly seeking out black scholars from sub-Saharan Africa and Southern Africa to participate in the WCEH2019. He will try to include young scholars working at the intersection of history and the environment, and other environmentally-

related disciplines through holding regional workshops, organising publications of their papers in special issues of journals, and raise the profile of the various ways in which the environmental past can be understood. He will also work to raise funds to support early career black environmental historians to present at the third WCEH. His ultimate objective is to ensure that WCEH is more representative of diverse African scholarship.

Welcome to new ICEHO Members!

## WEHN

### Women in Environmental History Network

*From the President Julie Cohn*



Here Nancy Jacobs addresses the Women's Reception that launched WEHN in Seattle (**Julie Cohn, President** in orange, third from left)

On Thursday, March 31st, at 6:30 pm, a lively and enthusiastic group of nearly seventy individuals gathered for the first ever Women's Networking Reception at ASEH! The organizers of this event hoped to encourage greater visibility, interaction, and support for the women who are active in environmental history. Nancy Jacobs gave a warm welcome to everyone in attendance, thanked our sponsors, and invited those present to really focus on making new contacts and expanding networks within ASEH. While this gathering was billed as a "women's" event, we enjoyed the company of several men, and in general hoped to create an open atmosphere for anyone seeking to connect to others working in the field.

During her remarks, Nancy noted briefly that the event organizers are interested, among other matters, in understanding and addressing barriers to women pursuing professions in environmental history, while at the same time supporting and expanding opportunities for success. To that end, we are gathering data related to participation in the field and how that is reflected in publications, reviews, conference presentations, and related matters. Going forward, we plan to share our findings with those involved in the networking group, and with relevant organizations.

In the course of the evening, several individuals proposed an informal goal of holding similar networking receptions at environmental history meetings around the world. By acclamation, those in attendance created a new entity, titled "Women's Environmental History Network" (WEHN) and raised \$100 to join the International Consortium of Environmental History Organizations (ICEHO). After the meeting, Kathy Brosnan submitted our funds to ICEHO and established our membership with the consortium.

The reception was great fun! It lasted well past the scheduled ending time, and guests continued visiting while the hotel staff converted the room for the next event.

In the relatively near future, we will create a permanent email list and provide periodic communications to interested participants.

**If you would like to be included on this list, please send your name and email address to Julie Cohn at [jacohn@uh.edu](mailto:jacohn@uh.edu).**



## ATREE

**The Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment, India**

ATREE [www.atree.org](http://www.atree.org) is an interdisciplinary research institution, and member of ICEHO. The disciplinary identities of its faculty are diverse and range from ecology, environmental science, environmental sociology, environmental history and ecological economics. Faculty teach and do research across an equally diverse repertoire of broad and specific areas including forest ecology and livelihoods, pastoral landscape transformation, urban water, sustainable development, climate change, ecosystems services and human wellbeing and environmental justice. ATREE's yearlong coursework for PhD students include core and elective courses in which natural history and environmental history figure prominently.

### New ICEHO board member, Siddharta (Sidd)

**Krishnan** is ATREE's environmental sociologist and historian. Though trained in sociology, archival work has always been crucial to his fieldwork in conservation and landscape oriented research.



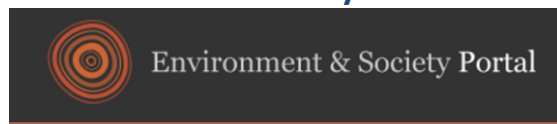
Sidd was 'initiated into the environmental history league' when he became a Carson Fellow at the Rachel Carson Center, Munich, in 2012—2013, and since has organized panels at a range of environmental history congresses. He describes his mission as 'historicizing

environmental sociology and sociologizing environmental history' through research, teaching and PhD mentoring. ATREE co-hosted an environmental history conference 'Unruly Environments: Ecologies of Agency in a Global Era' (with RCC and the Nehru memorial Museum and Library, NMML), in New Delhi in 2014.

ATREE has since gained credentials in environmental humanities. Being a member of the ICEHO will only help expand upon this front. The field of environmental history itself will benefit from being a part of interdisciplinary efforts the kind of which ATREE spearheads.

ATREE has been ranked 18 in the list of environmental think tanks in the world by the Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP) of the University of Pennsylvania. The field of environmental history can thus increasingly gain social and policy relevance in the subcontinent.

## What's News in the world of Digital Environmental History?



... from Kim Coulter at the Environment & Society Portal <http://www.environmentandsociety.org/>

Become part of the Arcadia network!



What are you working on? In 750 words or less, share your original research with Arcadia, the RCC's and ESEH's online, peer-reviewed short-form digital publication platform for environmental histories.



View all current and past Arcadia issues here: <http://www.environmentandsociety.org/arcadia/issues>.

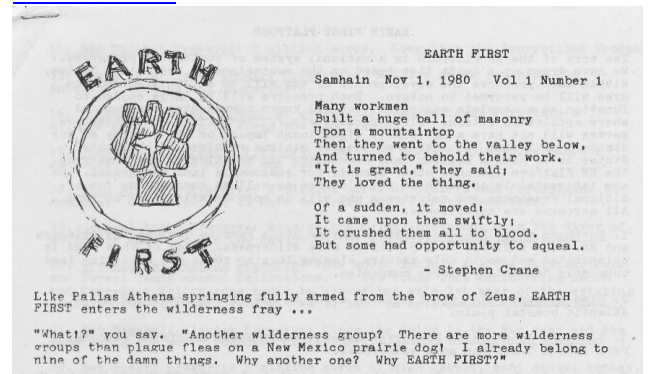
Here's how to submit your piece: <http://www.environmentandsociety.org/arcadia/contribution>.

### The Print History of Radical Environmentalism

The Environment & Society Portal is proud to present a full-text searchable digital archive of radical journals

deriving from the Earth First! movement, including *Earth First!*, *Wild Earth*, *ALARM* and *Live Wild or Die!*

<http://www.environmentandsociety.org/mml/collection/ef>. In an introductory essay, Bron Taylor offers a history of radical environmentalism's print publications: <http://www.environmentandsociety.org/mml/taylor-bron-radical-environmentalisms-print-history-earth-first-wild-earth>

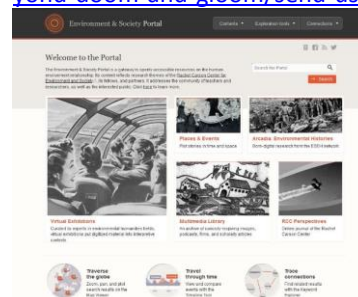


### "Beyond Doom and Gloom": A Virtual Exhibition and Call for Responses

The "doom and gloom" surrounding climate change and extreme weather events makes communication about them difficult. The Environment & Society Portal has a new virtual exhibition "Beyond Doom and Gloom: An Exploration through Letters"

(<http://www.environmentandsociety.org/exhibitions/beyond-doom-and-gloom>) collects and shares visions of hope through letters. Write to us and share your response or your vision here:

<http://www.environmentandsociety.org/exhibitions/beyond-doom-and-gloom/send-us-your-letter>



## Green Capital of Europe? A Legacy of WCEH 2014



In the July 2015 Bulletin, Jane Carruthers, past president of ICEHO, reported on her visit to Guimarães, Portugal, to continue an association that began with the 2014 World Congress of Environmental History. The current

*project involves the application of the city to become the Green Capital of Europe in the next few years. Here Jane continues the story.*

As one of the three ICEHO members of the Scientific and Monitoring Committee that will assist to shepherd the city of Guimarães in its application to gain the coveted Green Capital of Europe accolade, I attended the second meeting of this committee, comprising 14 members, at the end of January 2016. Under the chairmanship of Mohan Munasinghe, we are working with overall direction from the Mayor, Dr Domingos Bragança, and the Rector of the University of Minho, Professor António M. Cunha, and an executive committee led by Vice-Mayor Amadeu Portilha and Vice-Rector Paulo Ramisio, in tandem with an operational group of 19 environmental experts many of them engineers. This initiative is a partnership between the city and the University of Minho. The coordinator of the project is Professor Isabel Loureiro who works with the operational committee to target 12 environmental indicators on which the city will be evaluated by a panel of experts from the European Union. These include matters such as waste and water management, air quality, noise reduction, green energy and green transport and similar aspects of sustainable urban management.



The format of the meeting this year included visits to various projects that have already begun in the quest for the Green Capital award. These were, for example, the freshwater treatment facility and reservoir on Mount Penha, a travelling theatre bus that visits schools to give performances on environmental issues, an innovative Pay As You Throw (PAYT) waste collection system that encourages recycling and regular collection in the historic city centre (no unsightly bins on the streets) and a living science centre in the restored Couros leather tanning area, where we had our WCEH event. Apart from the formal meeting to chart the way forward over the next six months, there was an international conference on 'How to build a Green City' that attracted an audience of around 100 people. Professor Estelita Vaz, whom many ICEHO members will remember from the WCEH, gave a presentation on 'University commitment to build a Green City', and I spoke on the topic of 'From UNESCO World Heritage to a sustainable

city'. Estelita and I were followed by three people directly involved in sustainable urban centres. They were Gunnar Söderholm, head of environment and health administration in Stockholm (the first Green Capital in 2008), who spoke on 'A vision for urban development' and Luis Orive, a landscape specialist and leader of the team that took the Basque city of Vitoria-Gasteiz with its remarkable Green Belt to the award of Green Capital in 2012, with a focus on 'Green inside and Green Outside'. Finally we were treated to an extremely interesting explanation of how Pontevedra, a city north of Portugal on the coast of Spain, virtually banned motor vehicles from the city centre, thus creating a liveable and clean city that has received numerous awards for its achievement. This lecture, 'A model for the city centred on people', was given by the long-time mayor of Pontevedra, Migual Anxo Fernández Lores, who spoke Galician, thus giving Carlos Duarte, the excellent simultaneous translator, a bit more work than he had anticipated!

It is both a pleasure and a privilege for ICEHO to be involved in this project and to have a lasting relationship with the city and the university after the extremely successful WCEH.

For further information see the following sites relating to Guimarães Mais Verde (some in English, some in Portuguese):

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guimar%C3%A3es>

[www.cm-guimaraes.pt/pages/1092](http://www.cm-guimaraes.pt/pages/1092)

[www.fpguimaraes.pt/guimaraes-vai-estar-mais-verde/](http://www.fpguimaraes.pt/guimaraes-vai-estar-mais-verde/)

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=lpXKFT01T4E](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lpXKFT01T4E)

Guimarães Cidade Verde - Os Verdes

[www.osverdes.pt/.../guimaraes-cidade-verde.php](http://www.osverdes.pt/.../guimaraes-cidade-verde.php)



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Caribeña  
de Historia Ambiental  
Puebla, México 2016

Website online now:

<http://solcha2016.com>

## A Postcard from St Petersburg, Russia, April 2016



Meet Professor Julia Lajus, who runs the **International Masters Programme in 'Usable Pasts'** at the **Higher School of Economics, National Research University in St Petersburg**

In April 2016, *Libby Robin* travelled to St Petersburg to be part of an exciting International Masters Course in practical and applied history, 'usable pasts', at the invitation of **Julia Lajus**. Her international students come from places as varied as Ghana, Khazakstan, Serbia and India to join local Russian students in a course taught entirely in English, which is strongly historical, but wide in its scope. Students are working on film, photography, and art and all of them undertake internships in the many wonderful museums of the Baltic port city of St Petersburg. It is a very international place, and conversations were broad. I spoke to them about the National Museum of Australia, and some of the initiatives to present the Anthropocene in Museums, particularly in Europe, and the following evening I joined the class for a wonderful lecture from another visitor, Dr **Joost Schokkenbroek** Manager of Academic Programs at the National Maritime Museum Amsterdam

<https://www.hetscheepvaartmuseum.nl/> where several of the St Petersburg staff had worked on exchange. The course benefited greatly from the many crossroads that meet in St Petersburg, and from Julia's wide networks in environmental history, in ESEH and other ICEHO groups.

*Libby Robin*



## Final 2013-2016 Presidents' Report (from General Assembly)

from **Jane Carruthers**  
and **Libby Robin**



As we convene ICEHO's second General Assembly the occasion seemed appropriate to summarise the activities of the consortium during the shared presidency of both Jane Carruthers (2013 to 2014) and me, Libby Robin (2014 to 2016). Jane was the informal president from ICEHO's inception in 2009, but was formally elected at the General Assembly in Munich in 2013 and, as then Vice-President, I took over from

her at the World Congress in Guimarães in 2014 to serve out her remaining term of office.

Over the past three years, ICEHO has had a number of successes and we are well poised to enter a new phase of institutional stability, maturity and progress. Both Jane and I have been honoured to have been Presidents of ICEHO and to welcome a great new team.

### BOARD MATTERS

First, we both would like to thank the outgoing Board members for their support and help. Being on a committee entails responsibilities and sometimes a considerable amount of work. We are grateful to all Board members who have served over the past few years. We are grateful to our former board members who now be 'supporters in the wings': Mauro Agnoletti, Ranjan Chakrabarti, John McNeill and Lise Sedrez.

In our thanks, we make special mention of **Dolly Jørgensen**, our outgoing secretary, who resigned from her position with effect from this General Assembly. Dolly has ongoing enormous responsibilities as President of the European Society of Environmental History, as well as a new and demanding career position in Luleå University, Sweden.



**Dolly Jørgensen**, foundation secretary of ICEHO pictured here on a research trip to Australia in February 2016 for the *Foreign Bodies Intimate Ecologies* Conference, Macquarie University, Sydney.

We have been extremely fortunate to have had Dolly as our founding secretary and she has shouldered the website, the correspondence and the administrative technicalities of our complex by-laws with knowledge, flair and competence. We are grateful for her efficiency and courtesy and for getting ICEHO's secretarial portfolio going on such a secure footing. Although we will miss Dolly very much, we know that she will continue to support ICEHO and its close liaison with the ESEH and for this we are very appreciative.

We are grateful that Dolly will be replaced for the rest of her term of office by **Dagomar Degroot**, whom we warmly welcome.

Treasurer **Steven Anderson** of the Forest History Society has also done a sterling job. Having shepherded our bylaws through the labyrinth of North Carolina's legal processes, thanks to him, we have solid legal foundations and an excellent constitution. His support team, of Maggie Porell and subsequently Valerie Bass have been very patient and efficient with the complexities of levels of membership, new members, lapsed members and in keeping the list of member organizations regularly updated.

### WORLD CONGRESS 2014

The highlight of the joint presidency has been the World Congress of Environmental History held in Guimarães, Portugal in July 2014. Succeeding the first in Copenhagen in 2009, the second was going to be a hard act to follow. There is a great deal that could be said about this very successful congress in Portugal, but suffice it to say here that it was an outstanding event, attracting hundreds of delegates with excellent papers, all of whom enjoyed the hospitality and warmth of the city of Guimarães and the University of Minho. Those involved put in a great deal of work: the ICEHO site selection committee, members of the Program Committee under Graeme Wynn, the local organising committee under Estelita Vaz, the university

and the municipality. Under the editorship of Cristina de Melo and Estelita Vaz, with help from Mauro Agnoletti, two volumes of peer-reviewed selected papers will be published shortly by Springer Verlag. This means that there will be a tangible legacy of the congress and an important lasting contribution of how 'Environmental History in the Making' (the theme of the Congress) was actually made during that week. The WCEH was preceded by a ESEH summer school, and the two conferences resulted in the formation of the **Portuguese Network of Environmental History (REPORT(H)A)**, whom we warmly welcome into the fold.

A further legacy of the congress has been an ongoing relationship between ICEHO and the city of Guimarães and the University of Minho. (Full report on this below).

#### NEWS BULLETIN

An organisation such as ICEHO – a consortium of organisations – relies heavily on communication for its vitality. To assist this communication and to augment the website, I began a regular quarterly Bulletin in July 2014. This is a virtual hub to exchange members' news, identify issues of importance to our discipline, welcome and profile new members and alert members to conferences and important publications. The Bulletin is sent directly to member organisations but is also put on the website. It has been a great success and we encourage all members to contribute to it: it is YOUR news and our shared discipline.

#### ICEHO INTO THE FUTURE

It is exciting to consider the future of ICEHO, poised as it is for growth and development. We now move into a fresh era with new leadership. A truly hearty vote of thanks to **Cindy Ott**, as Chair, **Matthew Evenden**, **Bo Poulsen** and **Richard Tucker** for their assistance in what was a difficult task.

The major issue looming in the future is the third World Congress of Environmental History that will be convened in 2019. A Site Selection Committee, comprising **Graeme Wynn** as Chair, **Lisa Mighetto**, **Stefania Gallini** and **Bo Poulsen**, is handling the matter and they will report back on progress later in the year. So watch this space.

As we leave the Presidential position, we have a number of ideas for the future that, as and when appropriate, we hope the new Board will take further. These include strengthening the organisation with new members of all kinds – networks, institutions, societies, clusters, publishers and others with an interest in environmental history. We need to serve those members and one way of doing so would be to consider a strategic plan for ICEHO for the next five years and then allocate specific responsibilities to individual board members to put this plan into operation.

We would like to end with a final thanks to everyone attending this General Assembly and who have shown their interest in ICEHO, our absent members for their support and the outgoing Board of 2013 to 2016. We congratulate the incoming Board members and wish them every success.

*Libby Robin and Jane Carruthers*

*Note: Verena Winiwarter our new President since the General Assembly will present her report in the upcoming Bulletin.*

#### News from journals:

# GAIA

**GAIA: Ecological Perspectives for Science and Society** (*Gaia: Ökologische Perspektiven für Wissenschaft und Gesellschaft*) is a peer-reviewed academic journal established in 1992. Its main focus is on background information, analyses, and solutions of environmental and [sustainability](#) problems. Since 2001 it is published by oekom verlag. Articles are in English and German. The [editor-in-chief](#) is **Verena Winiwarter** (Klagenfurt University).

#### Current Issue



GAIA 1 - 2016

#### Climate Change Drives Transformation

##### Topics:

- Zeitskalen im Anthropozän
- Verdichtetes Bauen – Entdichtete Natur
- Elektromobilität

##### Content:

Index (pdf, 269 kB)

**Instructions for prospective authors:**  
<http://www.gaia-online.net/>

**If you have contributions for the next bulletin,  
please send them to me  
[libby.robin@anu.edu.au](mailto:libby.robin@anu.edu.au)**

**Or talk or write to our Executive Board members  
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**Do you want to join ICEHO?**

**From as little as \$US100/year.**

**Information online:**

<http://www.iceho.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/ICEHO-Membership-Application.pdf>

**Or contact Valerie Bass**

[Valerie.Bass@foresthistor.org](mailto:Valerie.Bass@foresthistor.org)