

Greetings from the Chair

Firstly, let me apologise for the lack of a recent PBC newsletter. Shortly after the very successful 2009 PBC conference held in Perth in November 2009, I moved from Perth to take up a new position at the University of Queensland in Brisbane. This, as I am sure all can understand, was a major upheaval and one I am slowly recovering from. One of the worst aspects of this move was losing Claire Fowler, who has been a major supporter of me and of the PBC and who did an absolutely fantastic job with the conference.

I am now the Deputy Director of the Queensland Children's Medical Research Institute, which is located at the Royal Children's Hospital in Brisbane. I am fortunate to have the support of Roxanne Jemison, who will be the new point of first contact for PBC members. She will soon be after you all to pay your dues for 2011! The University of Queensland has considerable expertise in the environment and health and I am looking forward to bringing a "child health" focus to them. Two significant new collaborations I have that may be of interest to members are with the National Research Centre for Environmental Toxicology (www.entox.uq.edu.au) and the Global Change Institute (www.gci.uq.edu.au).

The next PBC conference is to be held in April 2012 and details the early announcement is available on the website. This will be a joint conference with the Asian-pacific chapter of the Society for Environmental Geochemistry and Health. The early ideas for the conference themes sound very interesting and I hope we will see a large PBC contingent at the meeting.

Take care and I wish all members a safe and happy festive season.

Peter Sly