

# Curriculum Vitae

**Helen Lewis**

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## **Qualifications**

PhD (in progress), RMIT  
Masters of Environmental Science (1996), Monash University  
Graduate Diploma of Urban Research and Policy (1990), Swinburne University of Technology  
Bachelor of Economics (1981), Australian National University

## **Employment History**

**2001 - Current:**

**Director  
Centre for Design at RMIT**

### **Responsibilities**

- Managing staff, budgets and research programs within the Centre
- Responsible for overall business planning and management
- Developing research funding proposals
- Developing research partnerships within RMIT and with external groups

### **Achievements**

- Submitted a successful Australian Research Council application for the *EcoHome* project with Faculty of Engineering (\$200,000)
- Have undertaken numerous research projects on sustainable design methodologies, environmental design of office furniture and packaging, water conservation, product stewardship for electrical and electronic equipment
- Prepared a Strategic Business Plan for the CERES Sustainable Water Program as part of a community partnership (successful in obtaining grant funding of \$350,000 for CERES)
- Currently undertaking research on product stewardship initiatives in the packaging, appliance and information technology sectors
- Teaching Sustainable Production and Consumption course in the Department of Food Science

**1997 - September 2001**

**Manager Industry Programs  
EcoRecycle Victoria**

### **Responsibilities**

- Managing the Market Development, Organics Recovery, and Industry Waste Reduction Programs within EcoRecycle Victoria.
- Managing 11 staff.

- Contributing to development of annual business plans, programs and organisational policies as part of the management team.

### **Achievements**

- Developed and managed a Market Development Grants program, which has improved markets for recyclable materials. To date (July 2001) it had achieved a 44% commercialisation rate with potential to divert an additional 500,000 tpa from landfill.
- Developed materials strategies for recyclable materials to provide a framework for EcoRecycle activities, including grants, business development and communication programs.
- Developed a new assistance program for industry on business sustainability, including waste audits and action plans, full cost accounting, EMS, product stewardship and organisational change.
- Developed a new assistance program to assist State Government agencies to implement the Waste Wise program
- Developed a business development program in conjunction with the Office of Manufacturing, to support recycling businesses through training programs, seminars and an advisory service

**1994 - 1997**

### **Project Manager, EcoReDesign Program Centre for Design at RMIT**

#### **Responsibilities**

- Coordinating research and design assistance to companies in the EcoReDesign Program, including Caroma, NIDA Group, Email and Blackmores.
- Managing an ARC industry collaborative project with Kambrook to design products with reduced environmental impact.
- Developing research projects for a range of government and industry clients.
- Overseeing production of a video about the EcoReDesign Program.
- Teaching environmental design to students of cleaner production, industrial design and manufacturing management.

#### **Achievements**

- Managed a packaging design project for Blackmores, which produced innovative solutions to waste reduction.
- Developed a major new environmental design program for small to medium sized companies, and successfully negotiated funding from EcoRecycle Victoria, NSW EPA and the Energy Research and Development Corporation (\$250,000).
- Developed and managed a packaging efficiency study for the Plastics and Chemicals Industries Association.

**1990 - 1994                      Plastics Environment Manager  
Plastics and Chemicals Industries Association (PACIA),**

**Responsibilities**

- Managing the plastics industry's environment program, including policy development, budgets, financial reports.
- Developing concepts, writing/editing and managing production of a monthly newsletter, brochures, annual reports and other publications.
- Writing submissions to government organisations.
- Managing a diverse range of industry-funded projects including recycling trials, litter research and education projects.

**Achievements**

- Developed with the Executive Director a credible and action-oriented environment program.
- Coordinated the National Plastics Industry Recycling Plan, which was accepted by the Commonwealth Government for inclusion in the National Waste Minimisation Strategy, 1991.
- Produced the Plastics Recycling Register in 1991, 1992 and 1993 which is recognised as an important industry database to facilitate recycling.
- Developed with other industry associations the Environmental Code of Practice for Packaging.
- Promoted the use of plastics identification codes on packaging to assist recycling.

**1988 - 1989                      Manager, Labour and Regional Adjustment Program,  
Textiles, Clothing and Footwear Development Authority**

**Responsibilities**

- Managing the Labour Adjustment program
- Monitoring industry development and job losses in regional centres
- Managing the NIES program for small business in the TCF industries
- Managing the TCF infrastructure grants program
- Developing monthly statistical bulletin on trends in the industry

**1987                                  Project Officer, Regional Economic Strategies Unit  
Department of Industry, Technology and Resources  
(Victoria)**

**1986                                  Research Officer, Labour Resource Centre (6 months  
contract)**

**1986                                  Research Officer, North East Region Economic  
Development and Employment Network (NEREDEN) (6  
months contract)**

- 1984 - 1985**            **Project Officer, Employment Initiatives Section,  
Commonwealth Department of Employment and Industrial  
Relations**
- 1983**                    **Research Officer, Economic Analysis Section,  
Commonwealth Department of Employment and Industrial  
Relations**
- 1982**                    **Graduate Trainee, Commonwealth Department of Trade  
and Resources**

### **Other Positions**

- 1998 - 2001**            **Senior Associate  
Centre for Design at RMIT**
- 1999**                    **Judge, Plastics Innovation Award  
Plastics and Chemical Industries Association**
- 2000 - 2004**            **Environmental judge, National Packaging Awards  
Packaging Council of Australia**
- 2001**                    **Judge, Energy Smart Awards  
Sustainable Energy Authority of Victoria**

### **Publications**

#### **Books**

**Lewis, H.**, J. Gertsakis, T. Grant, A. Sweatman and, N. Morelli (2001), *Design + Environment: A Guide to Designing Greener Goods*, Greenleaf Publishing, UK (reprinted 2004)

#### **Book chapters**

Burrit, R., **Lewis, H.** and James, K. (forthcoming), ‘Analysing the Effectiveness of an Environmental Voluntary Agreement: the Case of the Australian National Packaging Covenant’, in Croci, E. (Ed), *The Handbook of Environmental Voluntary Agreements*, Kluwer Academic Publishers

**Lewis, H.** ‘Markets for Recycled Plastics’ (2002) in La Mantia, F. (Ed) *Handbook of Plastics Recycling*, RAPRA Technology, UK

#### **Refereed journal articles**

**Lewis, H.** (forthcoming), ‘Unwrapping the Discourse: Defining Product Stewardship and Sustainability in the Australian Packaging Industry’, *Environmental Science and Policy*

**Lewis, H.**, J. Gertsakis, T. Grant and N. Johns (2002), ‘Sustainable Product Design: Case Studies from Australia and New Zealand’, *Design Journal*, Vol 5, Issue 3: 23 - 34

**Lewis, H.** and M. Demmers (1996), 'Life Cycle Assessment and Environmental Impact', *Australian Journal of Environmental Management*, Vol. 3, No. 2, June 1996

### **Other journal articles**

Lewis, H. (2003), 'Packaging: Less is more', *Curve*, Issue 3

Gertsakis, J. and **H. Lewis**, (2002) 'LIFE Cycle Thinking', *Curve*, Issue 2

**Lewis, H.** and D. Greene (1996), 'Life Cycle Assessment on the Boil', *Clean Air*, Vol. 30 No. 4, November 1996

**Lewis, H.** (1996), 'Green Packaging: A Guide for the Perplexed', *Pack Sourcebook*, 1996

### **Refereed Conference Papers**

Gertsakis, J. and **H. Lewis** (2002), 'Connecting Products and Systems' Address to *Enviro 2002* Conference, 8 April 2002, Melbourne

### **Other conference papers**

**Lewis, H.** (2002), 'Packaging and Sustainability', Address to *A Better Bottom Line: Is Your Company Ready for the Challenge?* Food Science Australia, 19 July 2002, Werribee

**Lewis, H.** (2002), 'The Total Beauty of a Sustainable Day', Address to *Visual Communication Teachers Annual Conference*, 27 July 2002, Melbourne

**Lewis, H.** (2002), 'Plastics Recycling, Address to *Know Your Plastics* Course, PACIA, 10 April 2002, Melbourne

**Lewis, H.** and D. Tomkin, (2002), 'Design and Manufacture of Sustainable Products, Address to Hong Kong Polytechnic University seminar, 25 January 2002, Hong Kong

**Lewis, H.** (2001), 'Plastics Recycling, Address to *Know Your Plastics* Course, PACIA, October 2001, Melbourne

**Lewis, H.** (2001), 'Sustainable Resource Use in Building – Creating a Better Balance', Address to *CSIRO Buildings Reinvented* conference, 28 November 2001, Melbourne

**Lewis, H.** (2000), 'Plastics Recycling: Strategies and Case Studies', Address to *IRC Waste Management* Conference, Melbourne, 31 October 2000

**Lewis, H.** (2000), 'The Australian Packaging Covenant', invited address to the *Products and the Environment NW* conference, Seattle, Washington, 2 April 2000

- Lewis, H.** (1999), 'Plastics recycling: Where to From Here?' *Business of Recycling* conference, Melbourne, 29 June 1999
- Lewis, H.** and I. Coles (1999), 'Developing Markets for Recycled Materials', *13th WWM National Conference on Waste Management*, Melbourne, 10 March 1999
- Lewis, H.** (1998), 'Market development for Recycled Materials', AIG conference on *Integrated Waste Management Strategies*, Morwell, 30 October 1998
- Lewis, H.** and C. Ryan (1996) 'Life Cycle Assessment: Extending the Boundaries of Environmental Management', address to *Environmental Management Beyond 2000 - the ISO 14000 Approach* conference, Griffith University Waste Management Research Unit, Brisbane Hilton, 5-6 December 1996
- Lewis, H.** (1996), 'The Process of Designing for the Environment', address to *Design for the Environment* conference, Centre for Design, University of Technology Sydney, 21 November 1996
- Lewis, H.** (1996), 'Environmental Design', invited address to industrial design students and staff, University of Canberra, 17 October 1996
- Lewis, H.** (1996), 'Life Cycle Assessment in the Building Industry', address to *Ecologically Sustainable and User Friendly Materials* seminar, Royal Australian Institute of Architects, Melbourne, 20 May 1996
- Lewis, H.** (1996), 'Environmental Product Design', address to *Getting the Best Out of ISO 14000* conference, Green Innovations, Melbourne, 22 March 1996
- Lewis, H.** (1996), 'Durable Product Design', address to Society for Responsible Design seminar, Sydney, 21 March 1996
- Lewis, H.** (1996), 'Data Quality for Life Cycle Assessment', address to *Life Cycle Assessment: Shaping Australia's Environmental Future* conference, Clean Air Society of Australia and New Zealand, Melbourne, 29 Feb - 1 March 1996
- Lewis, H.** (1995), 'Environmental Product Design', address to *Symposium on Cleaner Production*, Royal Australian Chemical Institute, Adelaide, 28 September 1995
- Lewis, H.** (1994), 'Plastics Packaging: The Industry's Role in Waste Minimisation', address to *Plastics Packaging Fights Back* seminar, Australian Packaging Institute, Sydney, 7 June 1994
- Lewis, H.** (1994), 'Plastics: Uses and Environmental Impacts', address to *Packaging Issues Forum*, Packaging Council of Australia, 19 March 1994
- Lewis, H.** (1993), 'Cleaner Production in the Plastics Industry', address to Environment Institute of Australia Victorian Division, 26 October 1993
- Lewis, H.** (1993), 'The Future of Plastics Recycling', address to *Recycling: Where to Now?*, Keep South Australia Beautiful, Adelaide, 21 June 1993

**Lewis, H.** (1993), 'Packaging and the Environment', address to *Packaging for Profit* conference, Hobart, 17 June 1993

**Lewis, H.** (1993), 'Recycled Plastics - Closing the Loop', address to *Environmental Management in the Public Sector* seminar, Department of Business and Employment, Melbourne, 29 April 1993

**Lewis, H.** (1992), 'The Plastics Industry and the Environment' address to *The Packaging Industry and the Social Environment* seminar, Packaging Council of Australia, 12 November 1992

**Lewis, H.** (1992), 'Plastics Recycling in Victoria', address to *Recycling: From the Possible to the Practical*, The Science Shop, Melbourne, 29 September 1992

**Lewis, H.** (1992), 'Plastics Recycling and Waste Management', address to *MACROC Waste Management Forum*, Sydney, 18 March 1992.

## **Reports**

**Lewis, H.**, Dale, R., Wilson, B. (2002), *The Future Workplace*, RMIT University, Report to Schiavello Commercial Interiors

Allan P., **Lewis, H.**, Johns, N., Lenihan, V. (2002), *Plastic Shopping Bags – Analysis of Levies and Environmental Impacts*, Report to Environment Australia

**Lewis, H.** (2002), *A Compendium of Design for Environment Initiatives in the Information Technology Industry*, Report to the Australian Information Industry Association, Sydney

Gertsakis, J. and **H. Lewis**, (2002), *Giving LIFE to EcoDesign*, Report to Formway (NZ), Centre for Design at RMIT and Product Ecology Pty Ltd, Melbourne

Gertsakis, J., **H. Lewis** and C. Ryan (1987), *A Guide to EcoReDesign*, Centre for Design at RMIT, Melbourne, 1997

McLennan, M., H. Okraglik and **H. Lewis** (1996), *Trends and Future Regulatory Issues Concerning Packaging Material Used in the Australian Meat Industry*, report to the Meat Research Council, Sydney

Greene, D., **H. Lewis** and E. Kosior (1995), *Overcoming Barriers to the Use of Recycled Plastics*, Report to the Australia New Zealand Environment Council, Canberra

Greene, D., **H. Lewis** and E. Kosior (1995), *Collection and Reprocessing of EPS Packaging*, report to the Western Regional Waste Management Council, Melbourne

**Lewis, H.** (1990), *Part-Time Work: Trends and Issues*, Report to the Department of Employment, Education and Training, AGPS, Canberra

**Lewis, H** (1988), *Warrnambool: Economic Profile and Prospects*, Department of Industry, Technology and Resources and Warrnambool Development Board, Melbourne

**Lewis, H** (1987), *Shepparton: Economic Profile and Prospects*, Department of Industry, Technology and Resources and Greater Shepparton Development Committee, Melbourne

**Lewis, H** (1986), *An Economic Profile of the North East Metropolitan Region*, North East Region Economic Development and Employment Network, Melbourne