

# SUSTAINABLE OTAUTAHI CHRISTCHURCH NEWSLETTER

## FROM THE CHAIR

Tena koutou katoa

Sustainable Otautahi Christchurch has had an intense month since the inaugural meeting in April. The focus has been the preparation of the submission on the Greater Christchurch Urban Development Strategy options, but other work has been going on to set up the organisation - bank accounts, logo, letterhead, meeting protocols, AGM preparation etc.

I am privileged to be chairing the society leading to the AGM on 28 June. As chair my focus is on establishing inclusive, transparent and efficient processes for S.O.C. I see our role as influencing decisions being made on the current and future needs of Christchurch, and on leading action projects that demonstrate strong sustainability. I look forward to seeing you all at the AGM when we have Dr Bryan Jenkins, CEO from Environment Canterbury, speaking to us.

Chrissie Williams

## GREATER CHRISTCHURCH URBAN DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

As proposed at the inaugural meeting S.O.C. held a workshop on 14 May to hear the views of members, to enable the committee to develop a submission on the GCUDS options. Over 40 people attended the workshop and in six working groups concentrated discussions on water, biodiversity and ecosystems, transport, energy, society and business, and implementation. Since the workshop the notes from each group have been prepared and edited. These contributions have been pulled together into a submission, and a committee working group have determined the structure and content of the submission based on strong sustainability principles. The final document will be sent out to members and workshop participants. We will include the media in our distribution.

A resolution passed at the workshop asking for S.O.C. representation on the UDS Forum has been passed onto Bob Parker, the Chair of the UDS Forum. Thankyou to everyone who has put their time, knowledge and energy into work on this submission. We anticipate that the submission will be considered seriously, and that the process for strategy development is modified as a result.

Chrissie Williams.

## FIRST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: 28 JUNE, 7.30PM, ECAN

Sustainable Otautahi Christchurch's **first Annual General Meeting** is coming up this month:

**When:** Tuesday, 28 June, 7.30pm

**Where:** Waiiau Theatrette, Environment Canterbury, 54 Kilmore Street, Christchurch (Environment Centre entrance)

**Guest Speaker:** Dr. Bryan Jenkins, Environment Canterbury CEO

## VOLUME ONE, NO. 1, JUNE 2005

## COMMITTEE PROFILES

Current SOC committee members intending to stand for re-election at the upcoming AGM have provided brief biographies:

### **Christine Blance**

A background in horticulture, human rights and community development sees Christine coming to SOC from left of field - literally. She is currently the full-time manager of the Strickland Street Community gardens in Spreydon and with the help of many volunteers has developed this garden over the past 5 years from a small project to a dynamic community resource which now includes a community gardens resource centre .

After completing a Dip.Hort. Mgt. Christine tutored in Horticultural Management at Lincoln University for 6 years during the 1980s. For the next 10 years she worked in many fields of commercial and amenity horticulture. Being very interested in issues of representation, women's rights and justice Christine later attended Canterbury University and completed a degree in Art Theory and an honours degree in Feminist Studies.

While working for the Prisoner's Aid and Rehabilitation Society she began to take papers in Sustainable Development at Massey University - this allowed her horticulture, aesthetic and political interests to gel into a strong desire to work for a sustainable society. In addition to an active involvement in the Christchurch Community Gardens Association Christine has recently joined the Polytech Horticulture Industry Advisory Committee and is currently enrolled for post graduate studies at Massey University (Social Policy/Social Work).

### **Roger Buck (co-Vice Chair)**

Architect (UK and NZ): forty years involvement in housing of all types, now specialising in energy-efficient passive solar houses - with a particular interest in social housing and urban design; own practice for 15 years. Strong advocate for a well-designed environment which brings together the presently largely ignored wealth of knowledge and experience that exists within our community.

Over time, a member of numerous governmental and other committees and industry-related working parties involved in housing matters.

Member of a UK co-housing development management committee.

Past secretary of Solar Action (the New Zealand Branch of the Australia and New Zealand Solar Energy Society)  
Past chair of the Christchurch-Otautahi Agenda 21 Forum, currently co-vice chair of SOC.

Member of the Clifton Neighbourhood Committee (planning convenor).

Founding member of a small group that has designed and built its own environmentally-sensitive housing development in Christchurch - the proof of the pudding.

Committed to achieving sustainability in all that we do - but not just because it is desirable, but because we have no other choices. And life can get richer and more rewarding if we follow that path.

### **Nick Early**

Nick Early is a Christchurch-based communications advisor specialising in environmental issues and sustainability. Nick has 20 years experience in journalism and communications and has a Post Graduate Diploma in Resource Studies, with a focus on ecology and environmental management. He is an accredited advisor for The Natural Step New Zealand and has worked closely with two Christchurch companies acknowledged with awards for resource efficiency.

Nick has been an advisor and supporter for Sustainable Cities Trust for several years and joined the SCT Board in November 2003.

Nick's recent projects include a study of environment sustainability news on network television, which is to be published in an Australasian journal. He has also developed a Sustainability Module for Canterbury Journalism students and is working with The Press on a similar programme of professional development for senior journalists.

Nick is a member of the Public Relations Institute (by examination) and winner of a PRINZ award for excellence; and is a regular guest contributor for the Environment, Society and Design Division of Lincoln University.

His professional work involves advising clients on strategic communication issues and helping with implementation, including editorial services, crisis communication, ghost-writing, media publicity, internal (corporate) communications and media relations.

Nick has a particular interest in developing SOC's effectiveness through membership incentives and payroll giving programmes.

### **Wendy Everingham**

Wendy Everingham has been working as a Project Manager with Sustainable Cities Trust for the past two years. Her interest is Sustainable Transport, specifically walking and public transport issues. She founded the Canterbury Branch of Living Streets Aotearoa, a local walking advocacy group and has been very active in Lyttelton where she developed and designed an innovative town map and signage project that focused on local township walking.

Her interests are broader than transport. She's actively involved in Project Port Lyttelton, a local group seeking to inspire, engage, educate and show leadership on all levels in

**Lyttelton** It is all about finding out what works well in a community, building on that to create cohesiveness and trust, sowing seeds of what could be possible and then inspiring people to get involved. Lyttelton hopes to set a positive example of how a township can take responsibility for its destiny and in the process make significant changes to the way we do things. Becoming more sustainable is one of the primary goals.

### **John Peet (Treasurer)**

B.Sc., Ph.D., FIChemE, FIPENZ, FNZIC MRSNZ

Born in the UK and living in Otautahi / Christchurch for the last 40 years. A chemical engineer whose main focus in recent years has been sustainable development. Author of a book on Energy and the Ecological Economics of Sustainability and papers on systems, sustainability and the ethical requirements of stakeholder involvement. John was recently treasurer of his local parish church, where he converted the accounts from a paper-based cash book to a PC-based spreadsheet. He has a good understanding of the accounting and other requirements of financial stewardship of voluntary organisations.

### **John Stocks (Secretary)**

John has been the minutes secretary for the Agenda 21 Forum from 1996 to 2005. This involved taking minutes of committee and annual general meetings of the society; keeping a register of members; notifying members of meetings and passing on other information from the committee to members. He was acting treasurer for the Agenda 21 Forum in 2004.

John has completed a Bachelor of Arts degree majoring in History and Politics and starting 13th June will be working at Linwood High School in their audio-visual library as a cataloger on a one year project.

### **Rhys Taylor**

Resident in Christchurch since 1996, Masters in Resource Management from Lincoln University (included a dissertation on community bush-restoration projects). Self-employed in environmental research and facilitation with current contracts for Landcare Research Ltd, and for local government. Member of Sustainable Business Network, Association for Environmental Education and Friend of The Natural Step Foundation. National Coordinator of the Sustainable Households action/Education programme (see: [www.sustainablehouseholds.org.nz](http://www.sustainablehouseholds.org.nz)). Former Canterbury WEA programme organiser and a part time staff member at Hagley Community College, plus adult tutoring at several other secondary schools. Rhys is one of the current Trustees of Sustainable Cities Trust, and a committee member and former Chairperson of Agenda 21 Forum. Previous career in the UK was in national and regional NGOs involving extensive government and local government contact, also in community development and journalism.

### **Rex Verity**

Rex Verity is a seasoned organiser and group facilitator with extensive networks and sound knowledge of sustainability science, economics, culture and behaviour. He has been active for 33 years in environmental, international aid, social justice groups and community development businesses and in the Values and Green Party in virtually every role there is to have, including national co-convenor and now “elder”; for 21 years in the organic / GE-free movement; and for 3 years with the Sustainable Cities Trust as project manager and director.

He is a founding co-chair of Sustainable Aotearoa New Zealand and is CPIT’s Environmental Manager, working on greening that institution’s operations and curriculum.

### **Chrissie Williams (Chair)**

Following nine years as an elected representative on CCC (three of those as a City Councillor) Chrissie was disappointingly not re-elected in October 2004. She is currently a Director of Red Bus Ltd, has a contract as Enviroschools Facilitator and is seeking further contract work in project management, research and facilitation.

Chrissie plans to concentrate her voluntary effort in SOC and the Avon Heathcote Estuary Ihutai Trust. To enable this she will be reducing her involvement in Volunteering Canterbury, Travis Wetland Trust and Bexley Wetland Trust over the next few months.

### **Arthur Williamson (co-Vice Chair)**

Retired, now Professor Emeritus, University of Canterbury after 30 years as an academic in Chemistry and Chemical Engineering where he taught and researched in the field of thermodynamics.

Arthur has, since retirement, operated a family owned company (Thermocell Ltd) whose main activity is manufacture and installation of solar water heating equipment. Foundation trustee and presently (until it is wound up) Chair of Sustainable Cities Trust.

## **CONTACT DETAILS**

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