

SUSTAINABLE OTAUTAHI-CHRISTCHURCH NEWSLETTER

Volume 1 No 2 August 2005

From the News desk

Welcome to the second edition of our newsletter. We plan to publish bi-monthly and hope that this provides a good forum for views to be presented. Members are encouraged to send contributions to wendy.everingham@xtra.co.nz or by mail to 1-4 Harmans Road, Lyttelton.

The next deadline for submissions is October 11th.



AGM- June 28th

The Annual General Meeting was held on June 28th. The following members were elected to represent SOC.

Chair: Chrissie Williams

Vice Chairs: Arthur Williamson and Roger Buck

Secretary: John Stocks

Treasurer: John Peet

Sustainable Otautahi-Christchurch

P.O.Box 2657

Christchurch www.soc.org.nz

Chair: Chrissie Williams Ph 388 0798 chrissie.williams@xtra.co.nz

Vice Chair: Arthur Williamson Ph Hm 332 6815

arthur.Williamson@canterbury.ac.nz

Vice Chair: Roger Buck Ph Hm 326 5676 bucri@clear.net.nz

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Committee Members: Rhys Taylor, Katherine Peet, Nick Early, Wendy Everingham, Rex Verity, Christine Blance and Nigel Williams.

Dr Bryan Jenkins, the CEO of ECAN was the guest speaker. He presented an informative presentation on how ECAN is becoming more of a facilitator to produce sustainable outcomes rather than an iron fisted government organisation trying to lead by enforcement. He described the new approach as a collaborative approach where stakeholders were given an opportunity to effectively participate in the process and together the public and ECAN were coming up with better solutions to complex problems. If you would like to read the full text of Bryan's presentation please email John Stocks, jstocks@free.net.nz

UDS PRESENTATION

– Edited Executive Summary

On July 11th, Chrissie Williams, Roger Buck, Arthur Williamson, John Peet and Catherine Peet gave a brief presentation to the UDS forum on the paper SOC developed to enhance the outcomes of the Greater Christchurch Urban Development Strategy. The following are some of the main points that she raised. We await an official response to our submission.

1. Sustainable Otautahi Christchurch (SOC) congratulates the five Councils and Transit for their cooperative efforts in producing the UDS options.
2. SOC is committed to ensuring **social, cultural, environmental and economic aspects** of future urban development in the Greater Christchurch area are all addressed. This is an issue that goes far beyond the use of natural resources.
3. Because sustainability views are under-represented on the UDS Forum we have developed this substantial submission in the hope of providing some balance. We have already communicated to the UDS Forum Chair the unanimous resolution from our workshop *'That Sustainable Otautahi Christchurch Inc. requests representation on the*

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UDS forum'.

4. Representation on the Forum from Land Transport NZ (instead of Transit), EECA, the Ministry for Social Development and the Ministry for the Environment should also be considered.
5. A fundamental premise for our submission is that Greater Christchurch's development is on an unsustainable pathway, and urgent action is required to turn this around. Capturing the vision of citizens for a more sustainable future will enable a change of direction from the present unsustainable path.
6. We disagree with some of the criteria used and assumptions made in developing the options presented. (Sections 5 & 6). In particular we challenge the assumptions that growth is inevitable, and that population growth is a requirement for economic prosperity. Change towards sustainability, and the resulting improvement in quality of life, must be the key drivers, not population growth, economic growth or infrastructure development.
7. We do not specifically support any one of the options presented but propose a description of an alternative Option SD focused on strong sustainability. We consider that our analysis and recommendations, if adopted, will move Greater Christchurch towards a more sustainable future.
8. Our Option SD requires: A **systems approach** based on an agreed Goal and Ethic for sustainability, incorporating closed loop principles, a reduction of ecological footprint and an understanding of the value of eco-system services.
 - At least **90% of new housing through urban renewal**
 - Establishing of **multiple, inter-linked centres with mixed-use urban villages**
 - Building awareness of "Mana ki Te Tangata/the NZ Action Plan for Human Rights" and the "Make Every Child Count" campaign, as central to creating **sustainable communities**.
9. The SOC description of strong-sustainability includes:
 - Maintaining valued quality of life for future generations
 - Living within resource limits, including application of the Precautionary Principle



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- Achieving economic viability within the context of a peaceful and just society, which itself exists within ecological constraints
10. Leadership towards strong sustainability and integrated planning are crucial. Without leadership and a robust statutory structure to implement the strategy the vision will be lost through political pressure or individual desires. (Appendix A14).
11. SOC offers its support to all five councils in making a concerted effort and dedicating appropriate resources to integrate the strategy into their planning documents, and through other methods. For example, NSW BASIX or Auckland City where District plans will be overhauled to include urban design criteria.



Member Surveys.

Slowly we are receiving feedback from our membership

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surveys. The surveys are a key way for us to respond to our members needs as we shape the form of our new organisation. Members are encouraged to provide the committee with vital feedback. Please send your ideas into us by the deadline of August 31st. If you haven't received a survey form please contact John Stocks, 365 2224 or jstocks@free.net.nz

To date we have had some very useful feedback. Some members have indicated they would be keen to learn about and discuss the following issues in the next 12 months:

- Sustainable urban transport systems
- Medium to high density urban developments with good design
- The Natural Step program and how it is implemented in business and communities
- Sustainable local food production
- How to facilitate positive change
- What does the LTCCP Community Outcomes mean?

What's Happening

The Sustainable Cities Website has a regularly updated local events section which you can see on <http://sct.wji.com/tiki-index.php?page=LocalEvents>
They also put out a bi monthly e- digest of sustainability news, views and information which you can view on <http://sct.wji.com/tiki-index.php?page=SctNewsletters>
and subscribe to by emailing Caroline@sustainablecities.org.nz with subscribe in the subject line.

ChCh LTCCP Community Outcomes (Long Term Council Community Plans)

A group of SOC members had an informal chat with Alan Bywater from the CCC to discuss the Community Outcomes document. Input provided by SOC members was used to modify the outcomes. Please refer to the CCC web site for an updated version <http://www.ccc.govt.nz/LTCCP/>

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Meet the Politicians- How Strong are you on Sustainability?

SOC in partnership with the Sustainable Business Network, The Natural Step, Christchurch Council of Social Services, NZ Foundation and the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand is sponsoring a public meeting on Tuesday 23rd August 2005.

Prior to the General Election come and hear what MP's and political candidates have to say on the crucial connections between society, economy and environment.

Dr Morgan Williams, Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment will Chair the forum.

Venue: Christ Church Cathedral, Cathedral Square

Cost: Free but donations welcomed to cover expenses

Time: Seated by 7.30pm

Panel ends at 9.30pm with an informal opportunity to meet MP's and candidates until 10pm.

Environmental Risk Management Authority

ERMA are seeking opportunities to meet local voluntary groups. They will be in Christchurch on September 9th and are interested to meet with any group that has an interest in their work. Please contact Rhys Taylor if you would like some more information.

annabdrhys@compuserve.com

Book Launch

Deirdre Kent will be launching her book "Healthy Money, Healthy Planet", on September the 9th. If you are interested to attend or want more information please contact Christoph Hensch CMHensch@gmx.net

Sustainable Energy – Is Sustainable Attainable?

An interesting article has been published by SOC Committee member Dr John Peet in Future Times Journal 2005 Volume 2.

John assesses our dependence on non-renewables and looks at the Government's Sustainable Energy Report and suggests that New Zealand can never achieve the goals of the report with the current decision models in place. Major structural changes are needed to make significant change.

If any members have written interesting articles for journals please let us know. A small summary can be included in the newsletter and a reference can be given so that those of you who are interested to read the entire article can follow up.

Tell your friends and Colleagues about SOC.

Anyone with an interest in sustainability issues should be encouraged to become a member of our organisation.

Membership rates are:
Students/Unwaged \$10
Households \$15
Organisations \$30

Please contact John Stocks jstocks@free.net.nz for a membership brochure to be emailed or posted to people who may be interested.

Next Committee Meeting

September 13th 7-9PM at ECAN. All members welcome to attend to see what's happening at SOC.

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