

newsletter



sustainable
otautahi christchurch

Volume 1 No 3 October 2005

Our new Logo is born.

SOC is slowly taking shape. The addition of our new logo makes our organisation come to life. The logo represents the essential elements of life. Sun, water, land and of course people.

SOC aims to actively contribute within Otautahi Christchurch, to opportunities and means for achievement of long-term sustainability, recognising the relationship of the city to its environs.

Our logo development is thanks to Nick Early and Roger Buck for developing the initial designs and Des O'Neil at Art for Print who developed the finished product.

SOC Sponsors Key Speaker

Stephen Viederman, from New York will be in Christchurch next week. Thanks to Katherine and John Peet, SOC will be sponsoring a public meeting so that Christchurch can hear all about the great work he is doing on sustainability.

Stephen's work focuses on the need to ensure sustainability is reflected equally across the board. In particular he seeks to ensure that equity and justice are given equal attention to environmental and democratic issues.

All SOC members and friends are invited to come and hear Stephen speak. We look forward to seeing you.

Sustainability and the Triple Bottom Line

Time: 7.30pm

Place: Hurst Seagar Room

Arts Centre of Christchurch

Cnr Hereford St and Rolleston Ave

For more information:

Ring 03 384 1281

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
Secretary: John Stocks Ph 365 2224 jstocks@free.net.nz

Elections come and go

Prior to the election, members will remember that SOC in partnership with the Sustainable Business Network, The Natural Step, Christchurch Council of Social Services, and the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand hosted an evening with the politicians.

The election has come and gone but we thought it would be good to recap on what possible government members and political partners thought in relation to sustainability. At the moment it appears that the Labour Government will be working alongside the Greens, Progressives and New Zealand First.

So rather than summarising all the politicians' views this article will reflect the views of politicians who will probably make up the new minority government.

What does Sustainability mean to our local politicians and their political parties?

Jim Anderton: From Jim's point of view it is all about sustainable economic development. Ensuring that people are able to have a sustainable working future that doesn't compromise the needs of future generations. For the country he was particularly concerned about future water needs, energy sources, sustainable cities and child & youth development.

Wind, geothermal and solar power were important issues for him. He'd consider subsidies to get more people using solar power. He felt it was really critical that New Zealand needs to develop more electricity supplies if we are to continue to develop more businesses.



Rod Donald: Rod feels sustainability is all about providing for this generation without compromising the needs of future generations.

"It's means sustaining all species and caring for entire environment"

“A green economy does things well. Resources are not wasted and we work smarter to create better infrastructure and products”.

The Greens will listen to the warning signals. Current oil price indicators already highlight that we need to do things differently. He identified greater reliance on sustainable transport and highlighted that rail needs to play a bigger role in the economy being a more efficient way to transport goods and people.

Water was also highlighted as a key resource that needs to be managed better. He indicated that we should pay for our water usage. The Greens would like us to examine how we operate and modify our behaviour if we want sustainable outcomes. Rod indicated that our society needs to begin the transition to sustainability now and modify incrementally rather than being forced into a full on crash landing.

Winston Peters: Winston felt sustainability was very clichéd. His parties view is you just keep on going! The Kyoto protocol just added more uncertainty to the whole area. Rather than a carbon tax he felt we should just plant more trees. This would beautiful NZ and give employment to many. He did concede that development should not cause harm to the environment and highlighted the bad state of the waterways.



Ruth Dyson: Ruth believes in the Bruntland definition of sustainability. “It’s about sustainable development and not just about higher profits or better living standards for a minority”.

She agreed that currently our energy usage was unsustainable but felt it was quite hard to get a real hand on sustainability and exactly what actions were needed to improve things. Outcomes will need to be developed over long time frames time. She said the Labour Party was committed to this and they have a sustainable

development action plan looking at:

- Better ways of governance and management and working collaboratively
- Addressing immigration and tourism issues
- Understanding ecological footprints
- Building on social impact assessment – to determine which policies will enhance a sustainable future.
- Water issues

Exciting Development with CCC.

Mayor Gary Moore is organising a meeting between SOC members and council staff on Tuesday Nov 1st at 5.00pm. Drinks and nibbles for the first half hour and then a session of dialogue for the next couple of hours.

The aim is for council to get better feedback from community partners about how to improve outcomes for the Long Term Community Plans. Rather than just oiling the squeaky wheel, Gary wants to be pro active and engage with the community from the beginning of the process.

“I would like the Council to present to your group what we are working on at the moment. We will be searching for ways where we can get additional input to ensure that we have a wide-ranging perspective for each area which makes up the LTCCP” said Gary.

This is a great opportunity for SOC members to actively participate with the council. If you would like to attend RSVP to: rosie.halligan@ccc.govt.nz

Did you notice Katherine Peet’s Press Article?

Katherine Peet and Nick Early spent many hours writing and polishing Katherine’s article: “Sustaining our Communities: Contributions of paid and unpaid work and the value of voluntary work”, for publication in the Press. The article focusing on sustainable development was published however was edited heavily and renamed “Unpaid and Underestimated”. If you would like to read Katherine’s original article, please contact her for the unedited version.

john.peet@canterbury.ac.nz



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Events

- **Energy Seminar: Electricity Issues**

Thursday October 20th 1-5pm. Sponsored by the University of Canterbury and being held at George Hotel 50 Park Terrace. To register contact Mary Hill mary.hill@ecan.govt.nz or phone 365 3828

- **Earth Building Homes Conference**

This year EBANZ is holding it's Annual Conference in Christchurch, over Labour Weekend, 22-23 October. Visit a range of local earth homes an energy/solar home, natural eco-design, and a log building. On Saturday evening there will be a dinner, followed by two speakers presenting on energy efficient design and sustainable businesses.

Come along and mix with some of New Zealand's most experienced earth builders, designers, and earth building enthusiasts, and see some wonderful homes. For more information please contact Juliet McAra (03) 383 3159 mcaracowie@clear.net.nz, Peter Olorenshaw (03) 546 6176 petero@tasman.net.

- **CCC/ECAN Protocol Surface Water Management**

Public meeting to discuss the proposal. Wednesday October 26th at 5.30pm. Canterbury Horticultural Society, Riccarton Ave, Hagley Park

- **Global Warming**

A four-week series at the Canterbury WEA, 59 Gloucester Street. Starting Wednesday 26 October, 1.30-2.30pm. Cost \$14.

26 Oct. Global warming: an overview of causes and effects - Dr Ted Pryor

2 Nov. Building for climate change: adapting to mother nature - Dr Mike O'Connell

9 Nov. Antarctic science in the context of global warming - Dr Dean Peterson

16 Nov. International policy on global warming - Dr Ton Buhrs

For further information or to enrol, phone 366-0285.

Member Surveys.

Membership surveys will be sent to all new SOC members.

The majority of members have indicated they are most interested in sustainable development that integrates economic, social, cultural and environmental outcomes.

If you haven't filled out your survey it's not too late to reply or if you would like another copy please contact John Stocks jstocks@free.net.nz

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SOC!

As every organisation creates an abbreviation of their name, committee member RhysTaylor thought it would be fun to explore some of the other things SOC could stand for. He discovered multiple meanings in the Wikipedia for SOC.

- Self-organised criticality
- Sense of Coherence
- Separation of concerns, computer science
- Serbian Orthodox Church
- Society of Cartographers
- Special Operations Command of the Singapore Police Force
- Standards of Care
- System-on-a-chip

So the next time you see SOC, think twice it may not be Sustainable Otautahi-Christchurch!

Sustainable Households: New Courses in Christchurch



Starting Wednesday mornings once sufficient people have enrolled is the first daytime class for Christchurch.

Single sessions. \$3 per class or \$20 for 8 weeks.

Come along if you want to:

Reduce home heating costs?

Cut down on car fuel consumption?

Reduce household waste?

Improve your gardening?

Learn about sustainability in a friendly community setting? Contact Christine Balance 3799087 or

cbalance@slingshot.co.nz

"Peak Oil, Energy Prises and your lifestyle". Three evening sessions from Tuesday 25th October at the Hagley community College. \$15 pre paid bookings essential. [Contact](mailto:hy@hagley.school.nz) June Harvey 379 3090 or email hy@hagley.school.nz

"No money to burn". Practical tips on energy savings. A single session for three hours Saturday 5th November at Mairehau High School, 9.30am to 12.30 pm. \$5 but pre bookings necessary. Contact lomaxa@mairehau.school.nz

Clean Heat for Christchurch

Clean Heat loans:

Environment Canterbury agreed at this month's Council meeting to advance a clean heat project loans scheme for Christchurch households through a special consultative process. The consultation process will be advertised in The Press newspaper on Saturday October 1 with submissions closing on Friday November 4. The option will allow households with an open fire or solid fuel burner to borrow the costs of an approved replacement heating appliance and any necessary insulation. The loan would be interest-free for 10 years and repaid through an additional rates charge on properties that take up the option. The option has been developed in partnership with the Christchurch City Council to speed up the rate of completion, particularly in the partial and rental assistance programmes.

From Monday October 3, people can get a copy of the proposal and submission form from Environment Canterbury at 58 Kilmore St, or go to the Christchurch City Council Tuam St office, service centres or libraries or phone 353 9276. From Friday September 30, this web address will also outline the proposal: <http://www.cleanheat.org.nz/>.

SUBMISSIONS

SOC would like to make a submission for the Clean Air proposal. Any SOC members who would like to be involved please contact Rhys Taylor anneandrhy@compuserve.com or John Peat John.Peet@canterbury.ac.nz

We will also be making a submission on the CCC/ECAN Protocol for Surface Water Management. For more information look at <http://www.ecan.govt.nz/>
Contact Nigel Williams nigel@inconsoft.co.nz if you would like to contribute your ideas for a SOC submission.

Next Edition

Members are encouraged to send contributions for the next newsletter to wendy.everingham@xtra.co.nz or by mail to 1-4 Harmans Road, Lyttelton.

The next deadline for submissions is December 13th

Ministry of Environment meets NGO's

Chrissie Williams represented SOC at a recent meeting with a delegation from the Ministry. Lindsay Gow, deputy Chief Executive and Ann Callaghan a senior advisor represented the Ministry. Topics discussed included the Urban Design Protocol, how it is monitored and implemented, the forthcoming environmental road show and national environmental standards. These include bans on a number of activities that discharge dioxins and other toxic substances, design standards for wood burners and air quality standards. The Ministry highlighted that in the future water quality could become an issue for Christchurch if nitrate levels continue to rise. If you would like any further information about this meeting please contact Chrissie.

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

Tuesday October 25th, Waimakariri Room, 7.15 –9.15 at ECAN in Kilmore St. All members welcome to attend to see what's happening at SOC.

