

# newsletter



sustainable  
otautahi christchurch

Volume 1 No 5 March 2006

Exciting sustainability projects are happening around Christchurch and other parts of the world. In response to our last newsletter Margaret Jefferies from Project Port Lyttelton wrote an article about a networking day in Lyttelton where local people met a visiting Eisenhower fellow from Burlington Vermont and various groups around Christchurch learnt about the exciting work they were all doing.

## Community Sustainability Projects

By Margaret Jefferies (Project Port Lyttelton)

The Lyttelton Community Centre in its 'redecorating in progress' state was the venue for visiting Eisenhower Fellow Yiota Ahladas when she met representatives of some interesting community initiatives from the greater Christchurch area.

Yiota who is the Assistant Director of the Community and Economic Development Office in Burlington, Vermont, points out that the state of Vermont with a population of only 600,000 (Burlington with under 40,000 is the largest city) is looked to by the rest of the US for leadership in innovative social developments and in sustainable practices. This, in a similar way as much of the world looks to New Zealand.

Yiota's particular interest is looking at how communities work with their disadvantaged groups, with issues such as affordable housing and refugee and migrant integration. Burlington has some interesting projects – Green Up Days, restorative justice panels, first response teams (for removing graffiti), shovelling snow for elderly or disabled – all these function through the work of volunteers. The city also gives financial assistance to first

Sustainable Otago-Christchurch,  
P.O.Box 2657, Christchurch [www.soc.org.nz](http://www.soc.org.nz)  
**Chair:** Chrissie Williams Ph 388 0798 [chrissie.williams@xtra.co.nz](mailto:chrissie.williams@xtra.co.nz)  
**Vice Chair:** Arthur Williamson Ph Hm 332 6815  
[arthur.Williamson@canterbury.ac.nz](mailto:arthur.Williamson@canterbury.ac.nz)  
**Vice Chair:** Roger Buck Ph Hm 326 5676 [bucric@clear.net.nz](mailto:bucric@clear.net.nz)  
**Secretary:** Komie Kolanda [komie3@yahoo.com](mailto:komie3@yahoo.com)  
Volume 1 No 5

homeowners and those wanting to upgrade their houses/apartments (income limited) and gives support to assisted living for low to moderate-income seniors.

The trial Aranui Housing project – a partnership between Housing New Zealand, Christchurch City Council and the local Aranui community was one of the groups represented at the gathering. This project's success hinges on the high level of community consultation – every Aranui household is consulted. The design of new houses built in the area is a direct reflection of that consultation. As is the variety of activities now available in Aranui. Instrumental to the success of the project is the equality of the partnership. The major funders didn't assume the right to leadership but embraced the work of the Community Trust.

On the subject of affordable housing Yiota told of her conversation with Waitakere City's mayor Bob Harvey and his subsequent public commitment to providing affordable housing in that city.

Project Port Lyttelton spoke about the importance of its vision statement (printed at the foot of each page in the *Lyttelton News*) in determining which projects it takes on. These include the Farmers Market, The *Lyttelton News*, the community garden and the community building, the Time Bank, Lyttelton Pride (an anti litter project), the Community Angel, the nationally awarded walking paths signage and map project and as a working partner in organising the street festivals. PPL believes, by being values based and focussing on what is going well in the community and building on that, that Lyttelton will – and is already becoming - a model/inspiration for other communities in NZ.



Lyttelton Farmers Market

Chrissie Williams attended on behalf of Sustainable Otautahi Christchurch and described the aims and objectives and achievements to date of that group.

Students at Lincoln High School, an Enviroschool, have taken the lead in that township. Students identified global and local issues they wanted to do something about. Solving some of the problems of carbon dioxide emissions and reduced biodiversity in Lincoln was what they chose to focus on. They planted native trees on the school property. Then they realised that wasn't enough. So they went through all the processes and have planted up an old shingle pit that is now moving into reserve status. This has inspired the community who have also become involved. Now Sue Jarvis (a teacher from the school) being awarded an inaugural Sir Peter Blake Environmental Educator Award is forging links with the wider community including the local business association and the university - to start working out what the Lincoln community chooses for its future as it faces huge population growth and multiple ad hoc housing developments in the area.

The Ministry of Social Development representative Miles Dalton explained how this government department works in with communities with training, advice, networks and resources.

The event was a great networking experience for all involved.

## Interesting Web Sites

[http://www.warren.usyd.edu.au/front\\_page.html](http://www.warren.usyd.edu.au/front_page.html)

Website for Warren Centre for Advanced Engineering in Sydney. Look at the present and past bulletins – some excellent articles and links on transport, energy, water

<http://www.foresight.gov.uk/>

Foresight is a UK science based futures programme that has a number of projects running, Have a look at the Intelligent Infrastructure Systems focused on transport for the next 50 years – has some amazing scenario work.

<http://www.nzfwo.org.nz/>

The NZ Federation of Voluntary Welfare Organisations puts out a magazine New Dialogue (with employment issues in February). You can also view the 'Keeping it Legal' facts sheets (SOC has received hard copies of these)

Sustainable Otautahi-Christchurch,  
P.O.Box 2657, Christchurch [www.soc.org.nz](http://www.soc.org.nz)  
**Chair:** Chrissie Williams Ph 388 0798 [chrissie.williams@xtra.co.nz](mailto:chrissie.williams@xtra.co.nz)  
**Vice Chair:** Arthur Williamson Ph Hm 332 6815  
[arthur.williamson@canterbury.ac.nz](mailto:arthur.williamson@canterbury.ac.nz)  
**Vice Chair:** Roger Buck Ph Hm 326 5676 [bucri@clear.net.nz](mailto:bucri@clear.net.nz)  
**Secretary:** Komie Kolanda [komie3@yahoo.com](mailto:komie3@yahoo.com)  
Volume 1 No 5

## SOC is a member of:

- Association of Non Government Organisations of Aotearoa (Ango)
- Healthy Christchurch
- Environment and Conservation Organisations (Eco)

**If you would like any information from any of these groups please contact a member of the committee**

## Metro Review

The Christchurch Public Passenger Transport Strategy is being reviewed. Before the Strategy is drafted Environment Canterbury is asking public transport users some questions. By Friday March 31<sup>st</sup> they would like to know:

- What aspects of the Metro public transport system need improving?
- What should be done to reduce congestion?
- Other suggestions or comments that you have to improve the system.

SOC will be submitting some ideas. Wendy Everingham will co-ordinate the response. If you would like to be part of the submission please contact Wendy with your ideas. Ph 328 8359 or email [wendy.everingham@xtra.co.nz](mailto:wendy.everingham@xtra.co.nz)



## Annual General Meeting

**Tuesday June 27<sup>th</sup> 7.15pm at Ecan.**

Written nominations for committee positions close with the secretary 40 days before the AGM (May 18<sup>th</sup>). If you miss this deadline, nominations can be made in person at the AGM. SOC's new secretary is Komathi (Komie) Kolandai. Her email [komie3@yahoo.com](mailto:komie3@yahoo.com)

## Wal-mart Documentary

SOC invites you to a showing of the movie "WAL-MART: the high cost of low price", and a discussion following, led by Warren Snow.

**Date: Thursday March 30, 8 pm at Southern Ballet Theatre, Arts Centre, Christchurch.**

This movie, Robert Greenwald's latest documentary, examines the impacts of Wal-Mart's domination of the American retail landscape and exposes the fault lines in this Big Box retail model that has also become dominant in this country.

Screening in over 6000 schools, churches and other venues in the USA and in 18 other countries around the world, this movie had its premiere in Auckland late last year. This is your opportunity to see it in Christchurch!

Wal-Mart continues in the style of film critiques such as *Roger and Me*, *Super Size Me*, *Enron* and *Outfoxed*.

There will be an opportunity to buy the *Wal-Mart* DVD at the event.

Warren Snow is Director of Envision New Zealand. He writes and speaks about sustainability and works with communities seeking to create new green jobs and community owned businesses.

He prefers an "inside out" approach to sustainable development as opposed to traditional "smokestack chasing" which leaves communities vulnerable to the whims of the market and an increasingly unstable global economy. The results; desolate town centres, sprawl, waste, habitat destruction, debt and social deprivation are becoming plain to see. Warren thinks that large corporations have hijacked sustainability and many of its advocates - and that now we have to reframe what sustainability means. He sees locally owned businesses, town centres and community enterprises as key foundations for the sustainable communities we need to create into the future.

We'd love to see you there.

This event is underwritten by SOC and therefore donations of around \$10 per person would be greatly appreciated. To book your place for this event contact [john.peet@canterbury.ac.nz](mailto:john.peet@canterbury.ac.nz) 384-1281 (phone) 384-6281 (fax). Please be a bit early since reserved seating will be allocated at 7.55pm.

Sustainable Otago-Christchurch,  
P.O.Box 2657, Christchurch [www.soc.org.nz](http://www.soc.org.nz)  
**Chair:** Chrissie Williams Ph 388 0798 [chrissie.williams@xtra.co.nz](mailto:chrissie.williams@xtra.co.nz)  
**Vice Chair:** Arthur Williamson Ph Hm 332 6815  
[arthur.Williamson@canterbury.ac.nz](mailto:arthur.Williamson@canterbury.ac.nz)  
**Vice Chair:** Roger Buck Ph Hm 326 5676 [bucri@clear.net.nz](mailto:bucri@clear.net.nz)  
**Secretary:** Komie Kolanda [komie3@yahoo.com](mailto:komie3@yahoo.com)  
Volume 1 No 5

## BUS TOUR: Energy Efficient Homes

A Saturday bus tour around up to five energy-efficient homes around Christchurch is planned for either Sat 25 March or Sun 23 April 2006. House types will range from earth/adobe and straw bale, to concrete. We aim to include a timber house conversion as well as new structures. All make good use of sunlight and have adequate insulation, and some are beautiful too. We will meet the owners and have written support information. Size of bus will depend on numbers interested, with a fee charged to cover costs - lower cost per person if a larger vehicle is hired. Please register your interest and preferred date of the two NOW by emailing Rhys Taylor [anneandrhy@compuserve.com](mailto:anneandrhy@compuserve.com) or telephoning 03 337 1662 (short messages). SOC members and guests have first opportunity to book places, but the trip will then be advertised more widely if necessary to fill the transport.



## Sister City – SEATTLE

Take a look at what a Sister City is doing in relation to Sustainability. Office of Sustainability and Environment main page is at <http://www.ci.seattle.wa.us/environment/>

## New Secretary

Komie Kolanda is our new Secretary. Welcome Komie. Many thanks again to outgoing Secretary John Stocks.

## MORE EVENTS

There are plenty of functions on in Christchurch in March/April that focus on sustainability.

**March 6<sup>th</sup>:** Urban Design. A presentation by Tony Drewitt from Canada Lands. 5.30-6.30pm Lovell Smith Room, Arts Centre. Please confirm attendance by Friday March 3<sup>rd</sup> [david@foxsurvey.co.nz](mailto:david@foxsurvey.co.nz)

**March 9<sup>th</sup>:** Liza Harrow and Roger Payne – Lessons from Copernicus. A thought provoking performance highlighting the power of living sustainably. 7pm: Hurst Seagar Room, Arts Centre cnr Worcester and Rolleston Aves. Tickets \$6 ph 03 3770197 or email [eastsbookshops@eastsbooks.com](mailto:eastsbookshops@eastsbooks.com)

**March 12<sup>th</sup>:** Biological Husbandry Unit (BHU) & Lincoln University. "From Plot to Plate". Open Workshop Day 11am to 3.30pm. \$10 pp under 16 free. A wide range of workshops and presentations, topics include healthy vegetables and cooking, organic weed control, composting...  
To register ph 325 2811 or email [wardj4@lincoln.ac.nz](mailto:wardj4@lincoln.ac.nz)

**March 16<sup>th</sup>** Royal Society Distinguished Speaker, Professor Mandyam Srinivasan, speaks on "Small brains, smart minds: honeybee vision, navigation, and 'cognition'". 7pm at Canterbury University Lecture Theatre C1. This is a free lecture.

**March 14<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>:** Community Gardening. An exhibition of photographs by Stephen Trinder. Linwood Community Arts Centre, Cnr Worcester St and Stanmore Rd

**March 20<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>:** Future Directions and plans for the Central City South. A Christchurch City Council Initiative. For more details contact the Christchurch City Council.

**March 21<sup>st</sup>:** It's Time to Talk. Christchurch City Council invites you to a presentation on Race Relations by Herman McKinney, Director of Urban Enterprises Centre, Seattle USA. 7- 9PM at the Christchurch Cathedral.

**March 24<sup>th</sup>** Friday 24th March Dr Kevin Trenberth, Head of the Climate Analysis Section, US National Center for Atmospheric Research will present a Science Prestige Lecture entitled 'Global Warming is Happening' in University of Canterbury. School of Engineering Creyke Rd 1.00 p.m.

**April 10<sup>th</sup>:** Managing Drought Risk in Christchurch  
Hosted by the Climate Change Committee of the Royal Society of New Zealand. This one-day workshop will be held at the Copthorne Hotel Commodore in Christchurch and aims to.

- 1) provide an overview of the latest science on incidence of drought in New Zealand, and likely changes under global warming;
- 2) obtain feedback from stakeholders on how they are affected by drought
- 3) find out what research is needed to help them address their problems.

The emphasis is on agricultural and hydrological impacts of drought, including groundwater, and will not specifically address water allocation or policy issues. You can register for the Workshop at <https://db.rsnz.org/climate04-2006.htm>

**April 29<sup>th</sup>:** supported by the Tangata Whenua Community and Voluntary Sector Taskforce.

### **Sustainable Informed Connected Able.**

A workshop for community groups and volunteer organisations to find out:

- 1) what's happening that might affect your group
- 2) what the Local Government Community Outcomes process has got to do with you
- 3) how are you affected by the new charities commission
- 4) why did the government set up an office for the Community and Voluntary Sector

Cost: \$10 Time: 9.30 - 3pm Location: Te Amorangi Richmond, 349 Woodham Rd, Wainoni. Please register with Volunteering Canterbury by Thursday 20 April. Morning tea and lunch provided. Ph 366 2442 or email [vc@volcan.org.nz](mailto:vc@volcan.org.nz)

### **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 Komathi (Komie) Kolandai, [komie3@yahoo.com](mailto:komie3@yahoo.com) for a membership brochure to be emailed or posted to people who may be interested.

## Sustainable Households: New Courses in 2006



The next Sustainable Households Programme evening class series at Riccarton High School starts Monday 8th May (book in advance at the school office or contact Maryke Fordyce [maryke@attglobal.net](mailto:maryke@attglobal.net)) and a daytime series is proposed at Strickland Street Community Gardens, Spreydon, on Wednesday mornings from 5th April (to book, contact SOC member Christine Blance [cblance@slingshot.co.nz](mailto:cblance@slingshot.co.nz)). There is also a study group proposed soon in Lyttelton (contact Wendy) and in Little River (contact Annelies Pekelharing [anneliesp@xtra.co.nz](mailto:anneliesp@xtra.co.nz)).

## Book Reviews

### What can I do?

'Using the Internet to help New Zealand's Environment: An alphabet for living' by Lisa Harrow. Published by Hodder Moa. Reviewed by Rhys Taylor.

Internet users in New Zealand have a significant advantage over newspaper readers in their potential access to more varied information and opinion on sustainability issues - they can reach a greater diversity and depth than is afforded by most of our commercial media and trivialised TV broadcasts. Help in sorting the useful from useless information waiting out there is a challenge addressed by this new book, launched this month (event in Christchurch, 9 March).

Many of the sites that I often recommend, or have linked-to from [sustainablehouseholds.org.nz](http://sustainablehouseholds.org.nz) are described there, and the definition of environment used is eclectic enough to include food and health, home business and workplace aspects as well as the bio-physical environment. The section specifically on sustainability is thin. Lisa's style is friendly. She is clearly very committed but not over-earnest. She does not include the known environment-damagers and 'greenwash' sites that tend to clutter website references in commercial media, as she has no sponsors or advertisers to please - this book

Sustainable Otago-Christchurch,  
P.O.Box 2657, Christchurch [www.soc.org.nz](http://www.soc.org.nz)  
**Chair:** Chrissie Williams Ph 388 0798 [chrissie.williams@xtra.co.nz](mailto:chrissie.williams@xtra.co.nz)  
**Vice Chair:** Arthur Williamson Ph Hm 332 6815  
[arthur.williamson@canterbury.ac.nz](mailto:arthur.williamson@canterbury.ac.nz)  
**Vice Chair:** Roger Buck Ph Hm 326 5676 [bucri@clear.net.nz](mailto:bucri@clear.net.nz)  
**Secretary:** Komie Kolanda [komie3@yahoo.com](mailto:komie3@yahoo.com)  
Volume 1 No 5

is appealingly partisan. Lisa writes in the foreword: "Changing the way we live requires that we first understand what the problems are, their causes, and how to solve them." While she over-simplifies these solutions by tending to avoid geo-politics and most people's resulting powerlessness, Lisa offers encouragement to personal actions as the part of a global solution that we can most easily and immediately influence. Add this one to your bookshelf and it will soon be well-thumbed.

### The Weather Makers. Tim Flannery

Tim Flannery has just released a new book called "The Weather Makers". He highlights how our lifestyle since the industrial revolution has dramatically altered the earth's balance of CO2. We are producing so many green house gases that the earth is unable to absorb all the CO2 altering our atmosphere quickly and threatening all species survival. Tim's book is a call to action to create a more sustainable society. It details in plain English the issues surrounding, green house gases, climate change and global warming and challenges us as individuals to do something about it now.

## Next Committee Meeting

Tuesday March 28th, Ecan Council Chamber, 7.15 –9.15 at ECAN in Kilmore St. All members welcome to attend to see what's happening at SOC. Meetings are scheduled for the fourth Tuesday of each month.

## Next Edition

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

The next deadline for contributions is May 24<sup>th</sup>.

The newsletter will be published every second month. We plan to distribute March 3<sup>rd</sup>, May 26<sup>th</sup>, July 28<sup>th</sup>, September 29<sup>th</sup>, December 1<sup>st</sup>

