

newsletter



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Making Use of the Sun- SOC working in partnership with Project Port Lyttelton by Margaret Jefferies

There is nothing new under the sun, but New Zealanders are slow to pick up on decade's old technology based on knowledge that has been around for ever. Heat from the sun is free. Dark surfaces heat quickly. Warm air rises.

Large industrial buildings in the US have been using technology based on these basic facts for a long time. New Zealand is way behind. Maybe this is about to change. This last week Helen Hobson and Tom Jones at the Harbour Light in Lyttelton installed a warm wall to capture heated air inside black metal panels and duct this into their living space to supplement their existing heating.

Warm walls are simple really. The dark powder coated metal surface which is covered with tiny holes is bolted onto a north facing wall to catch maximum sun. As the air quickly heats inside the panel it rises and is ducted into the house. Once inside there are options: a fan (manual or thermostatically controlled) can direct the air downwards inside the building thus circulating fresh warm air.

The warm wall comes in modular form – so you can have as many as you want. They don't require building consent to install.

Helen and Tom were the lucky recipients of this warm wall. Project Port Lyttelton (PPL) initiated a conversation

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in this community - Energy Matters – how we can reduce energy consumption, how we can use what we have more efficiently and even how we might generate power locally.

This conversation attracted the attention of Christchurch architect and SOC committee member Roger Buck, a client of his in Queenstown, Yevrah Orstein, who has a warm wall on his home and who is developing the concept in New Zealand, and warm wall manufacturer Brian Woods from Maxwood Manufacturing Ltd.

Brian Woods offered a free warm wall to someone in the Lyttelton community. PPL put out for people who would like to have this free warm wall and Helen Hobson's and Tom Jones's Harbour Light building was deemed the ideal place.



Launch of the warm wall. Roger Buck and guests

PPL will be interested in how Helen and Tom find their warm wall, as its simplicity could mean an easy way for other Lyttelton people to have cosier buildings.

There is only a handful of warm walls in New Zealand at the moment. Maybe Lyttelton will take the lead and become 'warm wall wonder town'!

For more information contact PPL 328 9243, look at PPL's website www.lyttelton.net.nz or go to Yevrah's warm wall site www.warmwall.co.nz

IN A RECENT WORKSHOP KATHERINE PEET PRESENTED A few thoughts on sustainable development

- Keeping valued things and attributes going in the long term
- Growth of the better, not growth of the more – Genuine Progress Indicator, not only Gross Domestic Product
- Learning to deal with Wicked problems, Uncomfortable knowledge and Messy solutions
- It is better to be approximately right than precisely wrong
- It is better to deal incompletely with the whole than wholly with the incomplete

Sustainable Aotearoa New Zealand Draft Strategy 2007 – 2014 (from John Peet, SOC Committee member and SANZ Board member)

SANZ is a charitable organisation whose purpose is to help move Aotearoa New Zealand towards achieving long term (strong) sustainability through leadership, advocacy, networking, education and support. SANZ sees itself not as an orchestrator or umbrella, so much as a network node and link, hoping to enable regional and local like-minded groups to find out about what each other is doing and hopefully develop synergy in pursuit of our joint long-term goals.

SOC is a member of SANZ, and this is the first time SANZ has had a concrete proposal for members' consideration. SOC members are invited to have a good look at the SANZ Strategy document and get back to John (email njpeet@gmail.com) with their comments.

The Strategy is available at the SANZ website <www.phase2.org/>. You may find that other material on the website is also of interest!

New Committee Members

Are you interested to get more involved with SOC? We welcome any members who'd love to get involved on the committee. Please contact Kate Hewson or other committee members for more information.

Strengthening the Third Sector

Several organisations have been working together over the past five years to strengthen the Tangata whenua, Community and the Voluntary Sector. After a national forum in June between the sector and government it was decided that:

- There was a need for an independent from government, sector led, government funded group to represent the sector based on Tiriti/Treaty relationships framework.
- There is a need for a sector-led review, with government funding relationships for the sector
- The way forward builds on the existing developments, such as the Centre of Excellence, the clearing house etc.
- That the sector needs to operate locally, regionally and nationally
- That Association of non government organisations (Angoa) facilitate interim discussions in the transitional period with the Community Sector Taskforce towards the setting up of this independent body.

On a local level the Christchurch Regional Forum has been meeting alongside Te Runaka ki Otautahi o Kai Tahu to provide the local sector base for working in a Tiriti Relationships framework. Sharon Torstonsen, ccoss@ihug.co.nz as a member of the Community Sector Taskforce has been providing the support for this local activity. The four members who attended the National Forum, John Peet (Engineers for Social Responsibility) Christoph Hensch (St Albans Resource Centre), Christine Balance (Spreydon Community Gardens) and Katherine Peet (Network Waitangi Otautahi) recently reported back. They are all members of SOC and are happy to be contacted for further information.

Elections Edge Nearer

Voting for the local body elections commences September 21st and runs until October 13. SOC is partnering with Living Streets Aotearoa and Spokes Canterbury Cyclists Association to put together a questionnaire for candidates to answer on sustainability issues. We'll let everyone know when the results are collated. More soon....

WORDS OF WISDOM – CITY MALL by Wendy Everingham

Morgan Williams was in Christchurch recently to host a discussion on the City Mall. Most of you will be aware that the council proposed to design the mall around the possibility of vehicles being able to enter the pedestrian space.

The meeting identified two reasons why the public were upset at the proposal. Problems occurred because of the process adopted by council:

- ideas configured by experts before the general public was given a chance to have a say
- a belief that cars will solve the problem

Morgan advised that to resolve the conflict we have with this outcome so far, what can we get leverage from? He said:

- "Our democratic system is the best lever. Local Body elections will provide the best opportunity. Quizz candidates on their views of this issue. Support those who do not support road based solutions for the mall."
- "Ensure in the future we have community conversations on issues before the plans are drawn up."
- "Make sure decisions are made on evidence and not ideology."
-

He went on to say that we must challenge common assumptions that we must give space to motor cars.

"Cities that flourish do not do this. Why does Christchurch believe differently?"

"We need conversations on how to use the commons well"

Morgan thinks the key to the mall is safety. He believes effective soft lighting will solve this problem, not the reintroduction of cars. He had evidence from overseas to highlight this point.

He then went on to speak about Jami Lerner, the famous Mayor from Curitiba who improved the livability of Curitiba. Morgan said Jami says we should focus on improving the quality of life. It isn't a question about money or scale. It is a question of philosophy as to how things get done. He also stated that there is no problem that can't be solved if we don't all work together. Keep positive and not pessimistic.

To sum up Morgan felt that to improve the situation we should focus on:

- Alterations to the plan. How can we improve the space and get it more comfortable?

- How can we ensure cars can never be in the decision mix again?
- Into the future we need to ensure the processes of the council are kept on track.

To move forward Morgan suggests we should:

- Re-examine what we want to achieve
- Decide what to focus on
- Find the evidence to achieve that objective.



Four Visions of the Future: By John Peet

John Peet has recently produced a short paper on "Four Visions of the Future in 2058". It looks at some different ways in which things might go, depending on policy decisions made by us as a society, and on the way the rest of the world changes, over the next 50 years. The idea is to produce some ideas for dialogue, not predict the future. If people are interested in getting together to discuss it, please get in touch with John at njpeet@gmail.com.

The paper can be found on the Sustainable Otautahi Christchurch website, at <http://www.sustainablechristchurch.org.nz/resources/ourvisions.pdf>

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 download a form from the web site or contact Dave Evans for a membership brochure to be emailed or posted to people who may be interested.

Healthy city short course planning group

Healthy Christchurch is planning to host a 4-day short course next year (7-10 April) on creating healthy cities and communities.

SOC has been invited to be part of the planning group for the course, which meets periodically (usually on a Tues from 11 am to 12 pm). No one on the SOC committee is currently able to regularly make this time. Would any other SOC member like to represent SOC on this group? If you're interested, please contact Kate (kate.hewson@canterbury.ac.nz, 351-1232).

Events

Adult Learners Week

Monday Sept 3rd to September 9th

Come and Be Welcomed

Join colleagues to celebrate adult and community learning in style with an afternoon tea, followed by a visit to CoCA to launch the 2008 project, *Te Ara Whakatau* Creative Routes.

Where: WEA, 59 Gloucester St

When: Monday, 3 September from 3 - 4.30pm

Details from: Margaret Lovell-Smith, 366 0285

Be Visited

Be part of the 2nd annual Bus Trip – taking in community learning throughout Christchurch. Last year saw the bus travel to community centres, malls, tertiary institutions and schools.

Where will it stop this year? Would your place of learning like a visit?

Where: venues around the City to be announced

When: Tuesday 4 and Wednesday 5 September, 9am – 3pm

Contact: Jennifer.Leahy@canterbury.ac.nz

Celebrate With Us

End the week with an adult and community variety concert. This free event will showcase learning in the performing arts. From ballroom dancing, kapahaka, choirs and maybe a mime? Do you have some keen performers in your organisation? Bring the family too.

Where: Rudolf Steiner School Hall

When: Friday, 7 September 7- 10pm

RSVP: Amelia.Davis@canterbury.ac.nz

Three Local Body Election meetings in association with WEA.

6 September, 7.30pm Mayoral Candidates Forum

13 September, 7.30pm A Sustainable City

20 September, 7.30pm A Just, Healthy, Inclusive City

All at Knox Church Hall, corner Bealey Ave and Victoria St.

Your Water is Under Threat, Who will protect it? – Forest and Bird

Prospective councillors will answer questions on the use and management of Canterbury's water.

ECAN Lois Griffiths, Alec Neill

Kerry Burke, Bill Woods Eugenie Sage

CCC

Megan Woods, Bob Parker

Sally Buck

WHEN

Wednesday 19th September 2007, 7pm

WHERE

Aurora Centre, Burnside High School, Greers Road

Next Committee Meeting

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

Also, SOC Committee planning day: Sunday 9 September, 87 Soleares Ave, McCormacks Bay, 10.30 am – 3.30 pm. All SOC members welcome. Please bring lunch to share. Contact Kate for more info. (351-1232, kate.hewson@canterbury.ac.nz).



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