

newsletter



sustainable
otautahi christchurch

Volume 1 No 7 August 2006

AGM: The year's achievements.

Chair Chrissie Williams highlighted the full programme SOC has had since its incorporation 16 months ago. With a keen team of people the organisation has focused on developing its own capacity, advocacy, education and building new relationships.

SOC's first major project was holding a workshop on the Greater Christchurch Urban Development Strategy and preparing a significant submission to the UDS forum. This workshop crystallised the direction of SOC and enabled the organisation to come up with a sustainability platform that represented the interests of our members.

As the year went on we have contributed with many submissions, organised some interesting speakers, conducted a sustainable housing tour, and have been very active building relationships with the City Council and ECAN.

2006/2007

The great part about being an Incorporated Society is each year the AGM gives an opportunity to reflect on achievements, look to the future and inspire new people to become more involved. With a very healthy membership base it is a chance for some committee members to move on and new people to join the management committee.

We have three new members on the committee for 2006/2007. Dave Evans has taken over the Secretarial function, Andrew Groom will be involved with web site management and Kate Hewson brings her environmental skills from Canterbury University.

New Committee Members Profile:

Dave Evans

"I studied physics at university and then worked for the DSIR in microprocessor electronics, moving eventually into software development for computer networking equipment. Now I work at that for only 3 days a week, with another day reserved for the NZ Ecological



Restoration Network. After being inspired and galvanised by a Sustainable Households course a few years ago I have been concentrating on minimising my resource usage and

greening my lifestyle. Since moving from the central city to Opawa (so I can have a garden and grow my own vegies) I have become a bike and bus fanatic, and avoid using my car as much as possible. I'm working towards getting rid of it altogether. I see the challenge for SOC to be helping our civilisation realise the finite nature of our environment and resources, and to plan for the long-term future with those limitations in mind".

Andrew Groom

"Andrew has been working in the computer industry for



far too many years, and is currently building Internet applications for a living. After waking up to what's really happening in the world as a result of September 11 (2 days before the birth of his second child) and wanting to create a better future for his family, Andrew has joined SOC to do what

he can to promote a sustainable future for Christchurch."

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Lincoln 'Envirotown' event - great opportunity to network for a Sustainable Future by Katherine Peet.

Lincoln township's "Envirotown" event on Saturday 8 July was officially opened by Environment Minister David Benson-Pope; Rakaia Member of Parliament Brian Connell of the National Party was also there, and Green Party Co-Leader Jeanette Fitzsimons spoke and responded to questions on Climate Change - it gave a great opportunity to hear views from across the political spectrum.

A range of scientists and environmental practitioners, speaking at different times throughout the day, complemented the politicians.



The Envirotown event, held in the Lincoln Community Centre, Gerald Street, Lincoln, was dubbed Lincoln's "Big Day" and the occasion saw the launching of a Lincoln Sustainability

Centre and a Lincoln Envirotown Trust.

The Trust, supported by a grant from the Ministry for the Environment, has been established to promote environmental sustainability through education and by encouraging people to make informed personal and community decisions.

Admission was free, everyone was welcome and the programme was packed with demonstrations, activities, and displays as well as the speeches.

The "Big Day" was jointly supported by Lincoln University, Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research, Selwyn District Council and many other individuals and groups. It is organised by the Lincoln Envirotown Trust chaired by Dr Sue Jarvis who is the inaugural holder of the Sir Peter Blake Environmental Educators Award. Dr Jarvis is working on community environmental matters with Lincoln University and Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research.

The Lincoln Envirotown website is:
www.lincolnenvirotown.org.nz

For more information please contact:

Anne Nelson Project Manager

nelsona@lincoln.ac.nz 325 2811 ext. 8290

Sue Jarvis Enviro Trust Chair

jarviss@lincoln.ac.nz

The Sustainability Centre will be open each Friday and Saturday morning from 10am till noon at the Lincoln Community Centre.

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Stockholm/ Christchurch: Sustainability progress. By Wendy Everingham

A recent journey back to Sweden, and in particular Stockholm had me comparing sustainability progress between the two cities.

The Swedes are streets ahead of Christchurch when it comes to taking responsibility for reducing wasteful packaging. When I lived there in the early 90's you paid for plastic bags when shopping, there was container deposit legislation, so people took their bottles back for a refund, harmful products such as batteries were recycled etc. Now all packaging from products must be recyclable and manufacturers have to take responsibility for products for their whole life cycle. You can't just throw them out. For example mobile phones are returned to the manufacturer/distributor. An interesting observation however is while recycling is encouraged consumption doesn't appear to be diminishing. Swedes still have a habit of buying things for a season and then replacing!

Much end waste is viewed as a resource and used to create energy. Centralised hot water heating plants pump warm water around the city, the energy created by burning waste. Home insulation in general is first class reducing the need for energy.

Many buildings are integrated so that people do not have



to rely on cars for transport. An extensive rail and bus network has been woven that links most of the populated areas very

well. The investment in new infrastructure was very evident on my return. New light rail networks were a great addition. Added to this an extensive off road bicycle network and significantly traffic calmed street networks where the local road speed is 30km. More pedestrian only streets have been created and they are even experimenting with "home zones", a place where cars must give way to the needs of pedestrians.

Just as in Christchurch however there is great pressure to improve the road network. To my surprise extensive new road tunnels have been built in Stockholm. These

tunnels have made parts of the city more accessible by car, so more people are driving!

A congestion tax is being trialed on the inner city zone. Whilst the trial got off the ground there is considerable pressure to get rid of it. All over the world we love our cars!

Mall shopping complexes are also growing in numbers and many are very car dependant. Once land was only owned by the government and all development was quite planned. This trend seems reversed now and the Swedes are under the same sort of development sprawl as we encounter in New Zealand.

Land seems to be under pressure everywhere. The terrific green zones that link Stockholm are increasingly under pressure, as more people want to move to the capital for work. Whilst I was there some land was being designated as reserves, to ensure its protection but large areas will be houses when I return next.

Stockholmer's are fantastic at creating urban villages. High density, sound proof apartments are placed in beautiful surroundings with most facilities within walking distance. Street art is of importance to make the areas attractive. Seats and places to congregate are of great importance.



There are so many things I could comment on but space is limited. Whilst Stockholm has lots of very admirable practices most initiatives are government driven. In my opinion progress seems to have declined and the Swedes no longer seem to

be at the cutting edge of sustainability initiatives. Whilst we have a long way to catch up on the Swedish system a plus for us is a very active grass roots network of people trying to make changes at a local level. One government official was quite envious when I described the type of groups that exist in Christchurch to get local sustainability initiatives happening.

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The Great NZ Bottle Drive ([sourced from http://www.bottledrive.org.nz/index.htm](http://www.bottledrive.org.nz/index.htm))

There are growing calls for the introduction of mandatory CDL (Container Deposit Legislation) in New Zealand, because of its success at diverting beverage containers from landfill, new job creation and because of its potential to provide an alternative, sustainable funding source for community organizations.

Many people recall with affection the days when most beverage containers, had refundable deposits and made their first pocket money from redeeming the deposits at the local dairy or joined in a 'bottle drive' to raise funds for the scouts, girl guides or other community groups.

The Waste Minimisation (Solids) Bill

Last month The Waste Minimisation (Solids) Bill was introduced to the House of Parliament and this provides in Part 6 the opportunity to bring back container deposit recycling.

Submissions to the Select Committee to push for CDL will be available through the website www.bottledrive.org.nz. Furthermore there are postcard submissions available for people to send. All submissions need to reach the Clerk of the House by the 1st of September. The key to making this a successful campaign is to get as many submissions in as possible – so please show your support!

Please feel free to contact Zoe Martin on 09 369 0622 for postcards and further information.

How CDL works

(CDL) would provide mandatory legislation that establishes a deposit and refund system for used beverage containers. Although CDL systems vary around the world, the basic principle remains the same: a small 10 cents charge is added to the cost of beverages at the point of purchase. Customers redeem all or part of this deposit, depending on the programme, when they return the empty container to a retailer or an appointed collector.

If they choose not to return the container, someone else returns it and collects the deposit. There is also an additional hidden handling fee within the cost of each beverage to help cover recyclers' costs.

The 'secret' to CDL's success is the financial incentive it provides to firstly get consumers to return beverage containers for recycling, and secondly to generate the funding stream to do something with those containers once they are returned.

Advantages of CDL

CDL Reduces Landfill Volumes and Costs

CDL greatly reduces the number of containers sent to landfill, thus reducing costs to the community and preserving precious landfill space.

Eleven states in the USA, most Canadian provinces, many European nations and one state in Australia have enacted CDL, mostly in response to the explosive increase in disposable one-way cans and bottles. Many other countries and municipalities are now considering introducing CDL as they find (as we are in New Zealand) that existing measures, such as voluntary industry-led accords, do not work.

2. CDL Creates New Jobs

Over 600 local people are employed in South Australia's CDL programme, many in the 60 or so collection depots, which are run by private businesses, councils or groups such as the Boy Scouts. A 2005 study by Envision estimated that at least 1,700 new jobs full and part time jobs could be created in New Zealand with the introduction of CDL. Many of these jobs would be entry level jobs exposing new job seekers to a wide range of new opportunities in the growing recycling sector.

3. CDL reduces litter

Litter is another big cost to local authorities and ratepayers. In fact South Australia's CDL programme was introduced in 1975 simply to reduce litter. South Australia is now widely recognised as the tidiest state in Australia.

4. CDL provides community groups with funding.

CDL would provide a funding source for community groups. If CDL was to be introduced into New Zealand, an estimated \$300,000^[1] would be injected into the social economy every day of the year. A significant proportion of these funds will be available to innovative social sector groups that are prepared to organise and find ways to capture a share of the beverage containers in their communities.

Additionally not for profit groups could set up community recycling centres where the containers would be redeemed by the public and sent on to markets for processing. The scouts in South Australia operate 7 of the 110 or so recycling centres, each of which turn over approximately \$1million per annum.

Let's Bring Back the Great NZ Bottle Drive!

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More Events:

WEA Events:

1 'The Future of Canterbury's Water - Who Decides?'

- a four week course at the Canterbury WEA.

Speakers:

16 August: Murray Rodgers, Water Rights Trust;

23 August: Ken Taylor, ECAN;

30 August: Allan Watson, GHD Project Managers for Central Plains Water;

6 September: Rosalie Snoyink, Malvern Hills Protection Society Inc.

Date: Starts 16 August. Time: 1.30 - 2.20pm.

Place: Canterbury WEA, 59 Gloucester Street.

Phone 366 0285 to book your space.

Cost: \$12 for four sessions.

2. Wednesday 16 August, 7.30p.m. Dr Pita Sharples,

Co-Leader of the Maori Party and Member of Parliament for Tamaki Makaurau, is giving this year's Lincoln Efford Memorial Lecture at the Canterbury WEA, 59 Gloucester Street. Everyone is welcome to attend, no cost. Please call 366 -0285, to register.

IPENZ Presents.....

Don Elder, Chief Executive of Solid Energy will be presenting the 2006 Hopkins Lecture at the Christchurch Town Hall on Tuesday 22nd August. The topic is " **The economy and energy: are both sustainable?** " and is open to the public. The lecture starts at **8pm**, and is being held in the **Limes Room**.

Smart Growth Public Forum Christchurch

The Southern Environmental Trust is hosting a free public forum on Smart Growth on Wednesday 23 August at 7pm at the Aurora Centre, Burnside High School in Christchurch. Peter Townsend will chair the forum and speakers include Ken Tremaine (urban planning expert), Ray Davy (Conway Davy Ltd), Wayne McDonald (Transit NZ) and Vanessa Harvey (International Strategic Planner). For more information see www.set.org.nz

Adult Learners Week Sept 4th-9th

A series of events are running at multiple locations. Venues include Mairehau High School, Aranui Community Centre, Southern Learning Centre, WEA and libraries. Check the Christchurch events website for more information.

You are invited to the Celebration of the Week to be held by the Adult and Community Education Aotearoa in Otago in association with Te Runaka ki Otago o Kai Tahu - Friday 8 September , .30-7.30 at O-Tautahi cnr of Worcester st and Oxford Tce. Contact Matt Walters [<wm@aranui-high.school.nz>](mailto:wm@aranui-high.school.nz)

Urban Development Strategy Inquiry by Design Workshop 1- 4 August 2006 From Chrissie Williams

Arthur Williamson and I attended the 4-day inquiry by design workshop on behalf of SOC. On page six is a media release put out by the UDS Forum that gives their view on the workshop. A positive for the council staff was that they were at last sitting around a table together and thinker wider than their own area. The trouble was that these staff are the ones dealing with day-to-day issues and existing city and district plans - they were not encouraged to move from that headspace. The other positive sign was consideration of building good communities and not splitting existing and new communities by wide inaccessible roads.

Arthur and I were frustrated by the process. There seemed to be a lack of prior preparation. Council staff arrived without the necessary data and maps – so reliance was put on the knowledge and memory of those around the table to draw critical factors onto new maps. The whole process was very spatially based, dominated by transport, and focussed on present plans. Despite the clear direction given by submissions that there should be a stop to greenfield developments most of the week looked at where new development on the edge of the city and towns could go.

Despite our questions and comments there was little visioning work done and no discussion about how our future might be different with changes brought about by climate change or energy or water shortages. As described in the media release there were a number of theme areas but these were kept narrow – I wasn't even allowed to bring up the effect of emissions when in the green network group. Although the maps produced from these theme areas could be overlaid there was little sign of real integration of these.

At the end of the month John Peet and Roger Buck go on to represent SOC at the second workshop. The intention at that is to zoom-in on certain development areas and describe what that development might be like. A few of us have suggested that the workshop have a second focus which has discussion about the future, the risks, the integration, and checks the plans from the first workshop against the community charter they are all meant to be working to. (See <http://www.greaterchristchurch.org.nz/CommunityCharter>)

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The draft GCUS Strategy will be out in October and we will have four short weeks to comment on it. Despite our frustration and disappointment at this stage we must stay engaged in the process, so discussion and writing of our submission on the draft strategy will be an important time for all SOC members.



Land Use



Transport



Community Identity



Natural Environment

<http://www.greaterchristchurch.org.nz/TrendsAndIssues/>

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 contributions is September 28th.

The newsletter will be published every second month. The distribution plan for 2006 is: September 31st, and December 1st.

**Media Release put out by the UDS Forum
on 4 August 2006
UDS partners' technical staff complete
four-day workshop**

The four-day Inquiry by Design workshop for the Greater Christchurch Urban Development Strategy (UDS) ended today with about 100 staff and elected members having taken part from the five UDS partners along with several stakeholder and special interest representatives.

Kobus Mentz who led the four days, with his team of specialists drawn from Australia and New Zealand, said the week had probably been the most complex set of inquiry by design workshops he had ever run, due to its sheer scale.

With the Greater Christchurch UDS taking in Selwyn, Waimakariri and part of Banks Peninsula, there was a huge area to cover and viewpoints to include.

The group of 100 first considered various areas such as:

- green network (parks, reserves, open space),
- blue network (water),
- infrastructure,
- movement network (transport),
- economic (employment/business),
- social network (community impact/social services), and
- growth.

The group then developed preliminary integrated options for future expansion and consolidation.

Mr Mentz says the process ensured that all the partners were on the same page with their views and that everyone could frankly discuss what issues might exist for each authority regarding various scenarios. His team had been impressed at the good will shown between the local authority staff and elected members in tackling what would be of huge importance to their communities' future viability.

Mr Mentz says he is encouraged by participants embracing the opportunity – for possibly the first time - to work in this comprehensive and collaborative manner. These early investigation would be shared with the public at the end of this month before the next set of Inquiry by Design Workshops which will seek to gain a greater resolution and a clear direction forward.

"The final key to the success of the UDS, however, will depend on how well we have interpreted the Community Charter, have devised realistic measures to implement them, and how strong the leadership is to retain direction and gain real traction,"
Mr Mentz says.

Communities will have chance to view the Inquiry by Design Workshops' progress to date at the following community meetings:

- Selwyn Community Meeting, Monday 28 August, 7pm to 8.30pm, Lincoln Community Centre (opposite Challenge Station)
- Christchurch City Community Meeting, Tuesday 29 August, 7pm to 8.30pm, Council Chambers, Civic Offices, Tuam Street
- Rangiora Community Meeting, Wednesday 30 August, 7pm to 8.30pm, Waimakariri District Council Chambers.

Next Committee Meeting

Tuesday August 29th, Ecan, 7.15 –9.15 at ECAN in Kilmore St. All members welcome to attend to see what's happening at SOC. For the remainder of the year meetings are scheduled for September 28th, October 31st and November 28th.

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 dave.evans@alliedtelesyn.co.nz for a membership brochure to be emailed or posted to people who may be interested.

