

newsletter



sustainable otautahi christchurch

Volume 1 No 8 October 2006

SOC Wins UNESCO Sustainable Development Award:

The inaugural UNESCO Adult Learning Award for Education for Sustainable Development has been won by Sustainable Otautahi Christchurch.

The Award is one of two established by the New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO, with the purpose of fostering community-based learning activities that promote education for sustainable development or human rights, diversity and participation.



Chrissie and Roger with the award

Chair Chrissie Williams and Co-Vice Chair Roger Buck flew to Auckland on September 3rd to receive the award at a ceremony at Auckland Museum.

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

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The judges were most impressed that SOC works towards the bold vision of Christchurch people "practising, living and demonstrating sustainability in all that they do." They commented, "SOC empowers people to engage in the issues affecting the future of their community".

Judges were also impressed that Sustainable Otautahi Christchurch is committed to providing community learning opportunities for adults around the issue of environmental sustainability, one of the key concerns for our future in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Congratulations to everyone and especially to Katherine Peet who put the successful application together.

Inspiring Speaker

Sandy Morrison is the President of New Zealand's Asia Pacific Region of the International Council of Adult Education (ICAE). ICAE is the key international organisation supporting Adult Learners' Week - of which SOC won the UNESCO award.

Sandy is coming to Christchurch on Thursday 12th October and is giving a free lecture about NZ Adult Educators touching base with the world. The lecture is at Hagley House, Hagley Community College, 7.30pm. Everyone Welcome.

Minimizing Waste By Rhys Taylor

By joining forces with other Christchurch voluntary and community organisations, SOC will be tackling an interesting challenge this year through to June 2007. A practical project aims "to increase public access to waste-related sustainability information and to boost action to minimize waste by households and businesses". SOC member Rhys Taylor will manage this project, guided by the two vice-chairs Roger Buck and Arthur Williamson, and assisted by other members and external expertise.

"An essential first stage is checking what is already available" says Rhys, "in order to make links with other groups that are active - such as the community gardens, Creative Junk, Molten Media Trust, charity shops and Freecycle - so that we can help promote their specialist roles within a leaflet and website about minimising waste." City Council grant-funding has been agreed for the new project, which offers scope for involvement of several SOC members and will need to draw upon a variety of skills.

Contact Rhys on 960 2656 or anneandrhys@clear.net.nz during October if you'd like to be involved, as an advisor, a source of contacts, focus group participant or more 'hands-on' in the project detail.

Urban Design Protocol by Roger Buck

Sustainable Otautahi Christchurch is now a signatory to the New Zealand Urban Design Protocol, thus joining a growing number of organisations that share the view that the quality of urban design is critical to the future well being of our urban settlements.

The Protocol's 'Vision and Mission Statement' states its vision as being:

"Making New Zealand towns and cities more successful through quality urban design".

Its mission statement commences with this paragraph:

"The New Zealand Urban Design Protocol calls for a significant step up in the quality of urban design in New Zealand and a change in the way we think about our towns and cities. As part of a co-ordinated programme of sustainable development, it aims to ensure New Zealand's towns and cities are successful places for people".

We (SOC) see useful relationships becoming established between signatories given that there is reference in the document to the formation of "partnerships". For example, the Christchurch City Council has added its signature to the Protocol – and by doing so has confirmed that it concurs not just with the commitment to partnership but also with the mission statement's reference (amongst other things) to "(quality) urban design (requiring) alliances across sectors and professionals", and at the same time recognising that "towns and cities are complex systems that require integrated management".

If it is correct to say that the Resource Management Act – eg via s5, s6, s31(a) – brought with it the expectation that integrated environmental management would be an outcome, and that this has not in reality become evident, then perhaps the Urban Design Protocol might begin to fill the void – starting with the formation of cross-sector connections.

As well, signing up to the Protocol requires actions to be taken by the signatories. We must develop and report on a set of actions specific to SOC, and will relate to one or several categories, which include:

- championing urban design and raising awareness
- developing strategy and policy
- planning futures
- being a good client

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- making decisions
- exchanging information and research
- building capacity

Within about three months from now we must report our choice of actions to the Ministry for the Environment, and subsequently report on progress.

Each signatory must also appoint a 'Design Champion', and your committee has decided that this role would be taken by me initially.

I have drafted a number of possible actions which will be presented to the SOC committee shortly, but this is simply to start the ball rolling. What would be very welcome would be suggestions contributed by SOC members themselves (one-liners are OK), and to help you with this have a look at the Urban Design Protocol (including the Action Pack) which is available via the MfE website at www.mfe.govt.nz. It's worth a look anyway, whether or not you wish to contribute to the process.



SOC's Unesco Certificate

Interesting Newsletters

Sustainable Transport Coalition of WA stcwa@bigpond.net.au This site has many interesting articles on peak oil, cycling, public transport, transport issues in Australia and around the world.

The Greens newsletter also has many interesting articles:

<http://www.greens.org.nz/docs/newsletters/realbottomline/rbl02.pdf>

Draft Urban Development Strategy – SOC workshop 25 November

by Chrissie Williams

The draft urban development strategy will be out in late October and open for submissions. You will remember that 18 months ago when SOC had just formed we workshopped the UDS options on a Saturday morning.

We would like to prepare our submission for the draft UDS in the same way and have scheduled the morning of 25 November for this, and would like as many SOC members as possible to participate in this. Venue and exact details to be confirmed but please put this date in your diary now.

Our suggested approach for our submission is to 'audit' the draft strategy against the UDS vision and community charter. See

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

For more information contact Chrissie Williams.

Sustainable Living in the Spring

Resolving to make changes in your life? To meet those challenges of Climate Change, Peak Oil and polluted food with a confident smile rather than un-informed panic? The *Sustainable Living action-education programme* is running this Term on Tuesdays, 6 to 8pm from 10th October, at Hagley Community College.

Bookings are already arriving for limited places, pre-booked at \$25, including full notes on paper or CD, for the series of 8 evenings. Topics for information and discussion include organic gardening, energy-efficiency and building, transport and health, water, waste and shopping. The venue is close to the Hospital bus stops and has plenty of cycle and vehicle parking spaces.



Book with the enrolment office, Hagley Community College. Quote course reference 86. Cheque, Visa and Mastercard accepted. Telephone 364 5156. For background information see:

www.sustainablehouseholds.org.nz

There are also single evening events drawn from the *Sustainable Living Programme* content running at Mairehau High School in November - see the School's community education programme for details or phone Adrienne Lomax: 385 3145 www.paceinfo.org.nz

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The Power of Intent

If all of SOC's members and supporters are living and demonstrating SOC's vision we will move forward faster in trying to achieve our aims. The challenge is do we need to tweak anything to get there faster? Do you have any suggestions? Are you having an impact on your neighbours and organisations you are involved with?

Would anyone like to be involved in a discussion group to throw around a few ideas? If you are interested, email wendy.everingham@xtra.co.nz or phone 328 8359.

Lincoln/Lyttelton: Two towns striving towards sustainability.

Must be something about places beginning with "L". Both these towns are trying to raise awareness about sustainability issues. Lincoln being a University township is adopting a more scientific approach to finding out about the needs and desires of their residents as they seek to become more sustainable. A grant from the Sustainable Management Fund has enabled the Lincoln Envirotown Trust in conjunction with Landcare to survey the townships residents and get a clearer picture of what actions and education are needed to improve sustainability outcomes. This report will enable the Envirotown Trust to tailor programmes that meet the residents desired outcomes.

Lyttelton on the other hand is building sustainability awareness by direct actions within the community. It is a more ad hoc process of trial and error and simply is about letting passionate people implement ideas that have sustainable outcomes that reflect the Project Port Lyttelton vision statement.

For example currently there are a group of people who want to see more organic waste turned into compost rather than go to landfill. They are devising a collection process with local restaurants. When this is perfected the ideas will be introduced to the wider public. We hope we have composting pods all over Lyttelton in the future. In Lyttelton projects begin when there are champions to drive them.

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 Chrissie Williams for more information.

Community Development Strategy

On October 10th, the Christchurch City Council will have a seminar for councillors regarding the Community Development Strategy. If you are interested in the future of community development and the level of grants in the City you should come along and listen to the council discussion. The seminar will run from 9.30 to 11.30am. The final strategy will be presented to Council on November 2nd.

Have you seen “An Inconvenient Truth Yet?



If you'd like to get a better understanding about climate change this is the movie for you. An easily understood film with Al Gore explaining clearly and graphically all the issues involved. For example, a simple demonstration of ice cubes in a glass explains why land based ice that melts raises water levels.

Living Economies

A forum where a group of Christchurch people share news on alternative economic issues – from the complementary currency sector like LETS, Community Dollars, Timebanking and others.

This group has a lunch-time meeting once a month. If you are interested the next meeting is Thursday October 12th, 12.30pm at Mainstreet Café, 840 Colombo St, Christchurch.

The group is led by Christoph Hensch. For more information call 382 663 or email cnhensch@gmx.net

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Scottish Green Card

A new election “card” is being offered to voters in Scotland. As the environment is getting greater coverage political parties are seeking ways to show voters how environmentally friendly they are. The concept involves rewarding people who purchase for example energy efficient, recycled, second hand or fair trade goods.

Points earned with the schemes are redeemable at local authority enterprises. This could mean cheaper public transport fares, or reduced admission to theatres, recreational facilities etc.

Is this something that SOC members would like to encourage the Christchurch City Council or ECAN to offer in the lead up to next years election?

Are any members interested in getting involved in a project like this? It would certainly be a way to engage with the Councils and for them to declare that they are serious about encouraging electors to act more sustainably. If this excites you please contact either Chrissie, Arthur or Roger and we can facilitate a group to start working on this idea.

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.

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 November 28th.
The newsletter will be published every second month.
Our final newsletter for the year is December 1st.

Events:

City Mall re-Development

Attend a public meeting to discuss the proposals.

Retail / Business	Tuesday 3 October 6pm
Shoppers / Residents	Wednesday 4 October 7.30pm
Youth / Students	Wednesday 11 October 4.30pm

All meetings are at Our City O-Tautahi on the corner of Oxford Tce and Worcester Blvd. Submissions close October 20th

Thin-film Solar cells: Successes and Challenges

Date: 4th October,

Time: 8.00 pm

Venue: C3 Lecture theatre, University of Canterbury
Dr Timothy J Coumts, National Renewable Energy Laboratory, Golden, Colorado

"Clean Air and Warm Homes - Are they Both Possible?"

Speakers: Bryan Jenkins and Ian McChesney

Date: Tuesday 10 October 2006

Time: 7.30pm

Venue: Waiiau Theatre, Environment Canterbury, 58 Kilmore Street

Ministry of Environment Road Show

Nov 2nd 7.45am – 9.45am

Venue: ChCh Convention Centre, Limes Room, 95 Kilmore St.

To register

<http://www.mfe.govt.nz/withyou/talkenvironment/index.html> or call 0800825 536

Living Streets Aotearoa

"Getting There on Foot in NZ Cities and Towns. Taking the Next Steps"

Nov 3rd & 4th Christchurch

Christchurch is hosting the second NZ National Walking Conference. A host of local speakers talking about walking as a form of transport, the role of urban design in walkability, walks in a health and recreational context etc. Keynote speakers Todd Litman from Canada and Rodney Tolley from the UK.

To register www.livingstreets.org.nz/walking_2006htm

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Global Action Day Climate Change

Nov 4th

The Climate Defence Network has set up an email network for people taking part in the global day of action. climateaction@yahoogroups.com. To subscribe send a blank email to: climateaction-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

WEA Events: Canterbury WEA, 59 Gloucester Street

Phone 366 0285, to book your space.

- **United Nations Day**

24th Oct Public Lecture 7.30pm

Commander Robert Green, Chair World Court Project UK

"Freedom from Nuclear Weapons" The Good Faith Challenge

Free event

- **Urban Development Strategy**

24 Oct: Dr Susan Krumdeck Uni Canterbury – Energy Issues

31 Oct: Karen Banwell UDS Mgt Team – Draft Strategy

7 Nov: Harvey Perkins Lincoln University – Development Effect on Communities

Cost \$15 Time 5.30-7pm (tea and coffee from 5pm)

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

14 Nov: Murray Rodgers, Water Rights Trust;

21 Nov: Ken Taylor, ECAN;

28 Nov: Allan Watson, GHD Project Managers for Central Plains Water;

5 Dec: Rosalie Snoyink, Malvern Hills Protection Society
Cost: \$12 Time 5.30-7pm (tea and coffee from 5pm)

Next Committee Meeting

Tuesday October 31st, 7.15 –9.15 at ECAN in Kilmore St. All members welcome to attend to see what's happening at SOC. The final years committee meeting will be November 28th.

