

NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2011

SUSTAINABLE OTAUTAHU - CHRISTCHURCH *Exploring the best options for future wellbeing*

SOC works by:

- Producing newsletters and web resources to share information
- Running events and workshops
- Planning for the future
- Networking widely across our community



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*Our logo reminds us
of our vision of
people / families /
generations in a
pleasant and
sustainable
environment.*

Sustainable Otautahi - Christchurch supports the concept of **Strong Sustainability**
<http://nz.phase2.org/>

Members Meeting August 30. 7.30 pm. WEA Gloucester St.

The whole community is being invited to comment on the Draft Central City Plan when it is released later in August. SOC intends to put in a submission, but to do so we need to hear the views of our members. Time is tight so here's the plan:

Aug 16 Plan is released to the public
Aug 30 Members Meeting at the WEA
Sept 6 Committee meeting to compile a submission

If you would like to contribute to our submission and so give Strong Sustainability the best possible chance in the plan, please come to our members meeting on the 30th. But please make sure you have seen and thought about the draft plan before the meeting; we are considering our response, rather than explaining the plan.

**Tuesday 30 August
7.30 pm
WEA
Gloucester St. Christchurch.**

In This Newsletter

There is a sense (however tentative) that we might be settling into a “new normal” here in Otautahi - Christchurch. Earthquakes and their aftermath still determine who we are, what we talk about, and much of what we do, but this newsletter demonstrates that earthquakes aren’t everything. For example, we can once again hold a traditional **AGM**; we can have contributions that promote **conferences** and **biodiversity** and campaigns on **climate change**. We can welcome new people on to the team and farewell old friends. Perhaps this is what the oft-used term “resilience” is really all about - how quickly does a community recover from a shock enough to get back to the things that we know to be important?

But the aftermath of the ‘quakes does continue and it will be with us for some time to come; how long will it be before we can ride our bikes into a welcoming and safe city centre to get a book from the new library? If that’s a measure of the success of the **Central City Plan** then we will have Adair Bruorton to thank for bringing it about. Adair spoke at the AGM and stressed the importance of community wellbeing in the planning processes.

If the planning process is to have meaning and relevance (indeed if democracy is to mean more than a triennial box ticking exercise) then there must be genuine community engagement. SOC has been pleased to sign the “**Broad Alliance**” charter and we have reproduced it here for members to note and to share with other groups that may wish to be signatories.

We have also included a short summary of some of the key points from **Christchurch’s regeneration: research and science-based insights.**’ produced by The New Zealand Centre for Sustainable Cities and Landcare Research. It was evidence-based science on what works in the recovery phase and it was directed to CERA. Of particular note is this statement which Sustainable Otautahi-Christchurch wholeheartedly supports:

“We recommend that CERA articulate the vision and benefits for regenerating Christchurch as a model carbon-neutral and sustainable city.”

New SOC Committee

At the AGM in June, these people were elected to be the committee for 2011-2012

Tom Taylor (Chair)
John Peet
Katherine Peet
Lorraine Leonard
Shane Orchard

Jocelyn Papprell
Lou Warren
Bill Simpson
Dave Evans
John Adams

CHARTER

Of Community Engagement Principles for the Regeneration of Canterbury

As agreed by a broad alliance of the following founding signatories representing residents, youth, trade unions, business, community board chairs, ethnic leaders, community sector services, faith-based services, sustainability and heritage organisations, and academics:

Canterbury Communities Earthquake Recovery Network (CanCERN)	ORA (Otautahi Recovery & Awhi) Network
Student Volunteer Army	Council of Social Services in Christchurch
Canterbury Branch Council of Trade Unions	Anglican Care
Canterbury Business Leaders Group	City Mission
Christchurch Small Business Centre	Sustainable Otautahi Christchurch
Canterbury Business Recovery Network	IConIC
Community Board Chair, Spreydon-Heathcote	Dr Su Vallance, Lincoln University
Community Board Chair, Shirely-Papanui	Dr Bruce Glavovic, Massey University

Definitions

Community in this context means all the people of Christchurch, Waimakariri and Selwyn including business, workers, and residents across all age groups, sectors and special interest groups. The definition is thus inclusive of all sub-communities whether defined by geographical location, sector, special interest, social economic status or (in)visibility.

Engagement in this context includes all levels from passive consultation: observing, following, endorsing; to active participation: contributing, owning, leading; and is characterised by responsible, connected and empowered communities with a sense of buy-in and ownership of a shared vision.

Values

We endorse and adopt the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) **Core Values for Public Participation**:

1. Public participation is based on the belief that those who are affected by a decision have a right to be involved in the decision-making process.
2. Public participation includes the promise that the public's contribution will influence the decision.
3. Public participation promotes sustainable decisions by recognizing and communicating the needs and interests of all participants, including decision makers.
4. Public participation seeks out and facilitates the involvement of those potentially affected by or interested in a decision.
5. Public participation seeks input from participants in designing how they participate.
6. Public participation provides participants with the information they need to participate in a meaningful way.
7. Public participation communicates to participants how their input affected the decision.

If you, or any organisation you are linked with would like to add a signature to this charter, please contact Leanne Curtis of CanCERN on leanne@cancern.org.nz

Public Health Association Conference 2011

31 August – 2 September
Lincoln University
Canterbury

Vision, Sustainability and Diversity

If you work in, or are concerned with, public health, you can't afford to miss this most significant event! The PHA Conference, *Creating our Future, Now*, will focus on some very important and relevant topics such as:

- what is involved in communities and environments becoming resilient and sustainable
- what public health can do (and is doing) for the future of New Zealanders' health
- the importance of disaster and emergency preparedness and response.



Under its “Diversity” theme, the Conference will also examine health issues for specific communities, particularly the Asian community – New Zealand’s fastest growing population.

In a first for the PHA, and in partnership with Landcare Research, the Conference is working towards **carboNZero^{Cert™}** certification. The carboNZero programme is an internationally accredited greenhouse gas certification programme and means the PHA is committed to measuring, managing, reducing and mitigating emissions related to the Conference wherever possible.

Correspondingly, there will be an emphasis on innovative communication technology to trial better ways to share ideas during and after the Conference – not only for attendees, but also for the wider sector, in terms of climate change.

So book your place today! Find out more and register at <http://nzphaconference.info/>

New Community and Voluntary Sector “Council”

Our voice putting people at the heart of the rebuild of Christchurch

A recent non-profit sector hui agreed to initiate a process that would result in a “council” that will be a strong, clear voice representing the sector in seeking to ensure a city that will support fairness, equity, wellness and accessibility for all its citizens.

Rebuilding Christchurch is not just about buildings; it is about people and communities.

The council will be a group of ‘wise” people who will reflect the widest experiences and knowledge of the sector and will include a range of ages, ethnicity, disability and gender. The council will have a commitment to the Treaty of Waitangi and relationships with Maori. It will be time limited and its purpose specific to the rebuild of Christchurch.

We therefore seek nominations (including self nomination) for the ‘council’ with its membership to be confirmed at a meeting of the sector which will be held:

1pm Thursday 18 August 2011
Mental Health Education & Resource Centre (look for the rata)
403A Worcester St, Christchurch

RSVPs for the meeting AND the nominations to Karolin Potter: karolin@hrc.co.nz

NB: Karolin will not be standing for the Council.

Please specify if you are nominating for the Council and include your name and a *brief* one paragraph (max 10 lines) biography that includes your links to organisations. Nominations will close at 5pm, Monday 15th August.

Background

A hui for the non-profit sector hosted by the Christchurch Council of Social Services and Te Runaka ki Otautahi o Kai Tahu was held 28 July 2011 at the St Albans Baptist church hall McFaddens Rd. Over 70 people from the sector attended, representing a wide number of non-profit agencies and the people they work with.

The day’s discussion included:

- The values and ethos of the sector

- The principal issues facing the sector and its communities in the earthquake recovery

- The contribution the sector can make to decision making post earthquake

- The importance of upholding social, environmental, economic and cultural wellbeing, taking a sustainable development approach.

Full notes from the meeting will be available at the 18th August hui.

Share an Idea

Share an Idea was the strategy that Christchurch City Council used to collect the views of the public so that the draft plan for the Central City could be based on the wishes of the residents. Many SOC members will have contributed individually, and SOC made a collective submission after the public meeting on May 10.

We learned more about the community wellbeing aspects of the plan process when Adair Bruorton spoke at our recent AGM.

That planning process moves along at a rapid rate and SOC intends to comment on the draft plan using the ideas we generate from members at the meeting on **Tuesday August 30th**.

These notes are taken from the Share an Idea website

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



Tell us what you think

The draft Central City Plan will be available for public consultation from **Tuesday 16 August**. Copies of the draft will be available at Christchurch City Libraries and Council Service Centres and online at centralcityplan.org.nz to

view and make submissions. A summary will be delivered to every residential mailbox on the weekend 20 and 21 August.

You will have five weeks to make your submission. We want to know what you think – good and bad – about what is detailed in the draft Plan.

Central City Plan Roadshows

For two weeks, from **Tuesday 23 August to Sunday 4 September**, the Central City Plan Roadshow will be coming to your local community.

It will stop at various venues throughout Christchurch and head out to our neighbouring communities in Rolleston and Rangiora. This will make it easy for you to learn about what's in the draft Central City Plan, get an opportunity to discuss any areas of interest with our planners and most importantly make a submission.

After two weeks on the road, the display material will be set up in a drop-in centre at the Geo Dome in the Christchurch Events Village in Hagley Park from **5 to 11 September**.

International Speaker Series

Diary now **27 to 30 August** for the International Speaker Series. A number of inspirational speakers are being brought to Christchurch to share their experiences relating to redeveloping cities and communities which have been subjected to devastation – natural and human.

The series is being held at the University of Canterbury's Central Lecture Theatre over four days and is designed for people to hear different ideas and thoughts which will help them to make their submissions on the Central City Plan.

The Sustainability Petition

Sustainable Rebuild Petition Presented to Christchurch City Council and CERA

The online petition urging for sustainability to be the core vision at the heart of the region's rebuild plans has now been presented both to Christchurch City Council, and to CERA.

The petition gathered over 5000 signatures and was presented to Mayor Bob Parker and twelve city councillors at a council meeting late in June. More recently the instigator of the petition, Lou Warren, of SOC, presented the petition to CERA where she met with Roger Sutton and a number of other senior CERA managers. She was able to give a detailed presentation outlining the need for implementing sustainable solutions in the region's recovery, and the benefits of sustainability both now and in the future for our communities, businesses and regional economy, as well as the importance of transparency and deep community engagement in our rebuild process.

After the presentation, Lou commented that the CERA team were clearly receptive to both the sustainability and the community empowerment messages and there was some good discussion. Not unexpectedly, it was apparent that there are tensions between the long term goal of a sustainable rebuild and the more immediate pressures that CERA is under to make rapid progress on the rebuild. She said, "It remains to be seen to what degree CERA (and Christchurch City Council) can establish leadership regarding a strong sustainability agenda."

For those of us passionate about that future there's still work ahead to educate

our communities and convince our decision makers that strong sustainability offers highly desirable and readily implementable solutions to both the short term crises and longer term needs our region faces.

350.org



International pressure to take serious action on Climate Change doesn't go away.

A key date to look out for is **September 24** when there will be a worldwide series of protest events under the heading of **Moving Planet**; the theme is the idea that we will all need to actively move away from our dependence on fossil fuels.

In Christchurch, Moving Planet will include biking / walking and other events in various communities, followed by a gathering at Hagley park and a forum on the issues and actions as they are relevant to us here in the city and all around the world.

<http://www.moving-planet.org/>

Leaving for Australia -Christoph Hensch



Christoph Hensch has been an imaginative and capable advocate for sustainability in Christchurch, to the Transition Towns movement and wider community development in Christchurch during his time in the city.

Until the earthquake badly damaged his Colombo Street office, he was a community worker for the St Albans Community Centre and the St Albans Residents Association (SARA). Editing the St Albans News went with that role – a community paper that was read and appreciated well beyond St Albans.

He was an occasional contributor to Sustainable Living Education Trust courses, and more recently tried his luck in local politics, standing in the 2010 Council elections. He's been a leader in the PegX alternative currency system and a strong supporter of Sustainable Otautahi – Christchurch. He has also been pivotal in ensuring the Transition Initiatives Forum has come together every second month and has been generous with his website expertise e.g. in his involvement in the setting up of www.neweconomics.org.nz.

The city needs more people with such a strong sense of civic responsibility and engagement. We wish Christoph, Atena and family well in their new adventures.

PegX To Market To Market

The Pegasus Economics Education Society is holding an event called **'To Market, To Market'** from **7:30pm, Friday 19 August at the WEA, 59 Gloucester St**, in central Christchurch (plenty of parking available).

'To Market, To Market' will involve:

- a question and answer / discussion section about economic issues which we are titling 'Economics for Everyone',
- a market in the form of a 'Trading Zone',
- a 'Vision Zone' which will have displays and information,
- and a 'Social Zone' where people can have a cuppa and play board games.

This is a great opportunity for PegX members and others to get together, trade, have fun, chew over fascinating issues, and get to know each other better.

Transition Initiatives Forum

A meeting of the Transition Initiatives Forum has been confirmed - the first one since February.

Thurs 25 August from 12 - 2pm

WEA, Gloucester St., Christchurch

Business: farewell to Christoph, the future of the TIF, the ctnews website, 350 Moving Planet events, AOB

Anyone connected with the transition to a lower carbon, lower energy future is welcome to attend.

Enquiries to John Adams or Christoph Hensch

Where are you Otautahi - Christchurch?

Councils asked to go solar in 'The Solar Promise'

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

The Solar Promise campaign aims to encourage all New Zealand councils to embrace solar and help protect their communities from the rising costs of electricity and continuing oil depletion.

On behalf of Kiwis facing higher energy costs, the Nelson City Council, Nelson Environment Centre, and SolarCity have launched *The Solar Promise*, calling for councils, as well as central government, individuals and businesses, to do what they can to make solar more affordable, to help New Zealanders save money and combat climate change.

Nine mayors, led by Nelson Mayor Aldo Miccio, held a briefing in Wellington calling for all other mayors and their councils to consider solar options for their communities.



Aldo Miccio says that a 2008 feasibility study carried out in partnership with the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (EECA) and SolarCity showed the government's solar grant alone was not enough to help communities go solar.

"The study was clear: families want the immediate cash benefits from solar's savings,

but they need to spread the cost of solar for it to be affordable," Miccio says. "From these needs, the Solar Saver Scheme was born - an innovative rates-based financing mechanism to help home owners spread the cost of going solar. At the time, the Nelson City Council also chose to waive solar resource consents, to further reduce the barriers to solar.

"The Solar Saver Scheme has been a huge success for Nelson," he says. "In the scheme's first year Nelson families put more solar systems on their roofs than the whole of Auckland City, immediately getting up to one week's free power every month.

"The goal of *The Solar Promise* is to make solar more affordable, and there are many ways that individuals, businesses and local government can support that happening," he says.

"Nelson City Council's pledge to *The Solar Promise* is to continue to waive resource consent fees for solar installation, retain the Solar Saver Scheme, and encourage all councils to consider a number of key solar policies in their upcoming Long Term Plan."

Other Regions, Cities and Districts supporting *The Solar Promise* include:

- Hastings
- Wellington
- Marlborough
- Tasman
- Dunedin
- Invercargill
- Southland
- Gore
- Whanganui.

Otautahi - Christchurch appears to be missing from the list at the moment - is it time to catch up? This is an idea we can all push with our elected representatives.

Free Market Earthquake

This is an extract from The Press article by Fiona Farrell that has raised so much controversy in the letters column.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/the-press/opinion/perspective/5351237/Free-market-quake-turns-citizens-into-assets>

This is a 2011, free market, market-driven earthquake.

People were shaken by the geological quake but many of the stories to emerge from it have been heroic.

They have provided images for the media we have found awe inspiring: people dragged from buildings, people risking their own lives to help others.

The other quake, however, this political one, is simply sordid and painful, an endless tussle with private business.

And maybe it could be different. Disasters happen in a context.

When the world markets crashed back in 1928, there was chaos in this country for seven years.

A conservative government permitted suffering rather than intervene. It let the market decide. But in 1935, a different ideology was set in motion: things changed. People were able to attend a doctor, go to school, earn an income, live in a leakproof state home, lead a decent life.

This quake is no different. It's a disaster. But it's the political structures we create to respond to disaster that make the difference

Di Lucas

Di Lucas of Lucas Associates (Landscape Planning) has been a long-term supporter of Sustainable Otautahi - Christchurch.

You will have heard her name and read or heard of her contributions to the ongoing discussion about the future of our city.

Now Lucas Associates has updated its website and it's an impressive source of ideas, information, concepts and background. Of particular relevance are the map guides to local biodiversity. Set aside some time and make the most of this valuable website.

<http://www.lucas-associates.co.nz/>

Coal Action Network

The proposal to extract lignite from Southland and turn it into carbon dioxide is generating a response all around the country. Prof James Hansen was in NZ in May pointing out the folly of the proposal, and various political parties are starting to make an issue of it for the coming election.

In addition to the obvious suggestion to abandon the project and leave the coal in the hole, there is a proposal for a 10-year moratorium on new coal mining and new coal-fired power stations in New Zealand that has been put forward by Dr Susan Krumdieck of Canterbury University and SOC.

You can follow what is happening at Coal Action Network .

<http://coalactionnetworkaotearoa.wordpress.com/>

Sustainable Cities

Christchurch's regeneration: research and science-based insights

The New Zealand Centre for Sustainable Cities and Landcare Research have now released the final copy of 'Christchurch's regeneration: research and science-based insights.' This evidence-based report draws on the collective expertise of over 100 urban researchers, scientists and policy advisors who attended a sustainability workshop in Christchurch in April.

Printed copies will be available on request and it will be downloadable through the website www.sustainablecities.org.nz

Here is a brief summary taken from the document:



Key recommendations for consideration and action

1 *Articulate a fresh, shared vision – a regenerated Christchurch as a carbon-neutral, sustainable city.* While the need

to get Christchurch fully operating is pressing, all cities face significant risks posed by climate change and oil vulnerability. To make Christchurch resilient to natural and economic shocks, we recommend that CERA articulate the vision and benefits for regenerating Christchurch as a model carbon-neutral and sustainable city; and develop a set of core design principles for redevelopment based upon this aim.

- 2 *Develop an alliance between researchers, planners and practitioners* to provide leading edge advice and technical input for Christchurch planning, using New Zealand-based, globally-informed research. This could include a multi-disciplinary review group to work alongside, but independent of CERA, to provide scientific expertise and assist in providing resources for planning and informed community engagement.

Key principles for regenerating Christchurch

1. Plan and manage Christchurch as an urban system, which includes integrated social, economic, cultural and ecological systems.
2. Focus on building social cohesion and engagement. The process through which the city is rebuilt, as much as the outcome of that rebuilding, can enhance or undermine the level and kinds of social cohesion of the Christchurch community. In turn, social cohesion will heavily influence the success of regeneration.
3. Ensure population health has a central focus in redevelopment. Redevelopment could incorporate the six principles for a Healthy City.

4. Work with tāngata whenua to incorporate mātauranga Māori principles of urban design, and actively acknowledge the historical landscape and historical living patterns.
5. Adopt low impact urban design and development (LIUDD) principles to increase green-blue infrastructure resilience, reduce flooding and environmental pollution and provide multifunctional green spaces in the city.
6. Prioritise public and active transport investment, and redevelop suburbs and centres at critical transport and activity nodes and along public transport routes.
7. Ensure new development is resilient against sea level rise and tsunami risk.
8. Because of impacts on harder-hit suburbs, give special consideration to provision of affordable housing to provide security and stability from which vulnerable people can rebuild their lives.



Food for Thought

Here's a quote from *Nature* (3 June 2011, vol. 474) Outlook on Biofuels (page s22 "Fuelling Politics"):

"Bloomberg New Energy Finance estimates that in 2009 governments provided subsidies worth at least US\$43 billion to the renewable and biofuels industries combined, but the International Energy Agency's figures for 2008 show global fossil-fuel subsidies of \$557 billion."

Calendar of Events

Tues 16 Aug.

Draft Central City Plan released

Thurs 18 Aug.

Community & Voluntary Sector Hui.

Fri 19 Aug.

PegX To Market, To Market

Tues 23 Aug. - Sun 4 Sept.

Central City Plan Roadshow

Thurs 25 Aug.

Transition Initiatives Forum

Fri 27 Aug. - Tues 30 Aug.

International Speaker Series.

Tues 30 Aug.

Members meeting at WEA to consider a submission to the draft plan.

Wed 31 Aug. - Fri 2 Sept.

PHA Conference, Lincoln.

Sun 4 Sept.

The Anniversary of the 7.1

A day for community events and sharing with families, friends and neighbours.

Sat 24 Sept.

350.org Moving Planet