



Term 1 News, 2009 (archive copy)

Evening Courses started for 2009

Sustainable Living courses got under way at many high schools and community venues across New Zealand in the second and third weeks of February. Course fees are modest, typically below \$50 for a series of eight sessions, and some venues also have single topic walk-in sessions, for just a few dollars. Dunedin tutor Maureen Howard says, "These courses help people put sustainability ideas into practice, share practical tips that make a difference and can save you money."

If you are seeking a place on a course, now is the time to enquire for Term 2 and register your interest. Details are at our regional pages



<http://www.sustainableliving.org.nz/Sustainable-Living-Regional-Info.aspx>

Note that school-based courses will require you to contact the Community Education Office at the school and pay in advance to secure your place.

North Island Coordinator Arrives

Thanks to investment by partner councils and Ministry for the Environment's Household Sustainability team, we have been able to contract a second part-time coordinator who will help develop Sustainable Living in new areas and also support existing councils and educators, initially until June 2009. Jennifer Kerr (pictured) will provide this new service from Epsom, Auckland, to councils across most of the North Island. Phone her on 09 6300 130 or Email: jennifer@sustainableliving.org.nz



New North Island Coordinator for SLET, Jennifer Kerr

Rhys Taylor continues as the contracted National Coordinator and also supports our council partners in the South Island plus Wellington Region. "My national work takes me to Wellington, so it saves carbon, and time, for me to work with the partner

councils nearest there rather than bringing Jennifer down from Auckland. I'm pleased that my carbon footprint for flights to reach other parts of the North Island will reduce." Canterbury-based Rhys expects that "the weekend time released by reduced plane-hopping will allow me more opportunity for gardening, and capturing a little carbon by composting!"



South Island & Wellington coordinator, Rhys Taylor (See: www.sustainability.govt.nz/forum/2009/guest-blog-successful-stories-canterbury-composter)

Auckland courses started

New council partner Auckland City hit the ground running in 2008 with two very different courses. City Council eco design advisor and SLET trustee Eion Scott reports:

"Awaawaroa, meaning Long Valley, is located at the end of a 3km dirt road on the south coast of Waiheke Island, still a remote area despite the rapid urbanisation of this jewel in the crown of Auckland City's Hauraki Gulf islands. Don Stodart has built several homes in the village, including his own. He has a reputation for designing efficient waterless composting toilets, one of which he showed to a group of visitors on a Sustainable Living Course field trip in September (see photo). The mud brick outhouse has two chambers underneath, with transparent hatches. One chamber composts while the other is in use." (Editor adds: The composting mix is fairly dry, with only untreated sawdust and straw added to increase the carbon content. This compost is ready after 6 months for use as mulch on fruit trees, but not directly on vegetables).



"The Waiheke Sustainable houses course attracted 16 participants, ran over three evenings as well as the Saturday field trip to Awaawaroa, and was focused on eco building, covering design, energy and water. As well as Don, guest speakers included local architect Claudia Lapp, grey-water specialist Craig Brown and myself on eco-design. The course was the first since Auckland City joined the Sustainable

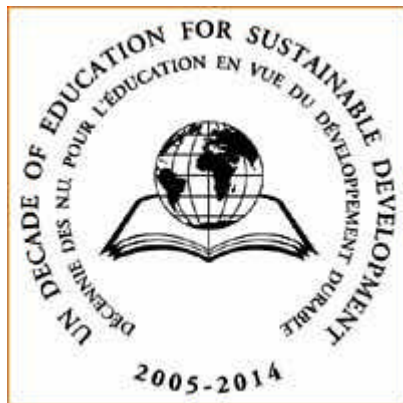
Living Programme. A second course has now been facilitated by science teacher Melanie Voyce at Selwyn College in Kohimarama and was also fully subscribed. Both courses received good publicity in local papers and, with the encouragement and support of Lynne Stewart from Waiheke and Margaret Stewart from Selwyn Community Education, such courses are expected to become a regular feature of the Auckland City continuing education calendar."

Secondary Schools using the Programme

A few secondary schools will test three of our topics (shopping, waste reduction and travel) as one term's interesting activity in the classroom with year 12 students. NCEA Level 2 Achievement Standards in Education for Sustainability can be 'assessed internally' at schools using teacher guidelines developed for us by Jocelyn Pappill of Christchurch, an experienced teacher, now independent education contractor and member of the NZ Association for Environmental Education. Science, geography or social studies teacher enquiries about the new materials welcomed by the National Coordinator: Rhys 03 960 2656 or Jocelyn by Email: jyc@caverock.net.nz

Apart from this material recently adapted for senior students, Sustainable Living is not involved within the school curriculum - we tend to refer school enquiries to the EnviroSchools Foundation http://www.enviroschools.org.nz/about_us/ , which is doing great work with a wide age-range from pre-school to secondary. Our Trust's focus is on community education for adults, so supporting the parents and teachers of children at EnviroSchools is a developing interest in 2009. Partner councils in Dunedin and Marlborough have trial runs planned of this school-community link.

Sustainable Living Programme has been endorsed by the NZ committee of UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development.



CHOICES from Sustainability Trust is web-savvy

Our friends at the Wellington-based Sustainability Trust, which last year tested 'Eco Kiwi' in Otago and Wellington, are, with further Ministry for the Environment support, developing and re-naming their sustainability information service, as CHOICES. This combines community outreach through environment-savvy 'networker' volunteers (could this be you?) with an interactive web-based question/answer system for households. Details in our next newsletter, and we are already planning to use it in support of some Sustainable Living classes during Term 2.



Background information and dates of meetings to launch it, mostly held on Fridays and Saturdays, in Auckland, Wellington, Kapiti and Christchurch, are at the Sustainability Trust's website

http://www.sustaintrust.org.nz/OurProjects/Current%20Projects/Choices/Choices_main.htm Contact: Emily Buskirk 04 389 3401.

More Councils sign up to Sustainable Living

Manukau City and Waipa District (around Cambridge, Te Awamutu) are the latest recruits to our growing list of partner councils, in January 2009. New arrivals last year included Auckland City, Far North District, Kapiti Coast District, Waitaki District (around Oamaru), Waimakariri District and Wanganui District. The full list of partners is available here <http://www.sustainablehouseholds.org.nz/about1.htm>

Charity status for SLET

Sustainable Living Education Trust, formed by the partner councils, has recently gained educational charity status, which safeguards our objectives, brings tax advantages (donations tax-deductible when over \$5) and aids long-term fundraising from other Trust and Foundations. The Trustees are headed by Christchurch City Council Sustainability Advisor Tony Moore, and comprise keen, experienced staff 'volunteered' from varied departments of local government from Auckland to Southland. Five of the six met in Christchurch - from top left: Tony Moore (Christchurch City), Kitty Waghorn (Waimakariri District), Eion Scott (Auckland City), Ilana Batchelor (Environment Southland) and Jenny Neilson (Dunedin City). One Trustee is not pictured here: Bret Sangster (Greater Wellington).



The trustees regularly connect by telephone conference to plan and direct the work of a small contractor team. "Thanks folks - we couldn't do it without you" says Tony. During 2009, we aim to recruit an additional trustee from a North Island partner council - nominations welcomed before June. Email:

tony.moore@ccc.govt.nz

Eco-My-Flat is back

University of Canterbury and also some Lincoln University students will be

attending some of a dozen Sustainable Living seminars in March, led by five of our tutors. The students are vying for most eco-friendly student flat, in the annual competition that aims to transform student lifestyles and 'footprints' in a fun way. <http://www.sustain.canterbury.ac.nz/ecomyflat/tips.shtml> . Dr Kate Hewson has details: kate.hewson@canterbury.ac.nz . Students can contact Sharon McIver 03 366 7001 ext 3741

Hamilton Expo visit by Sustainable Living

The North and South Island coordinators, Rhys and Jennifer, only meet 'in person' occasionally, but both will be in Hamilton Gardens at the Permaculture Trust's Good Life Expo on Saturday 28 February. They are sharing a speaking slot, 10.30 to 11.30 am, on the big issues of Climate Change, Peak Oil and practical household responses to these. Other guest speakers include NZ Gardener editor Lynda Hallinan and former MP Nandor Tanczos; and there will be many interesting stalls and displays. A tutor training event for Sustainable Living in Waikato will be hosted later that day by Hamilton Environment Centre.

Walk to Work Wednesday

On March 18, thousands of people across New Zealand will leave their cars at home and Walk2Work with friends, family and colleagues. Workers are invited to call in to their local Walk2Work breakfast event between 7-9am, to register, collect their complimentary breakfast snack, be inspired by speakers, win spot prizes and potentially change their habits! Information on Sustainable Living will be available at some of the breakfast venues that morning.



After a successful pilot event in 2008, Living Streets Aotearoa <http://www.walk2work.org.nz> is coordinating twelve events around the country. Walk2Work is a great excuse for people to get outside and enjoy their commuter walk, realising the benefits of fresh air and gentle exercise. Walk2Work events are being held in Auckland City, North Shore, Hamilton, Bay of Plenty and Lakes district, Taupo, Levin, Wellington City, Lower Hutt, Nelson, Tasman district, West Coast, Christchurch, and Dunedin. Sustainable Living Education Trust is happy to help Living Streets Aotearoa publicise and support these events in 2009.

Earth Hour on 28 March

WWF and friends are again promoting Earth Hour, a power switch off on Saturday 28 March 8.30pm to 9.30pm, as a symbolic and educational event to alert us to the quantity of resources we use. If the world's people all lived like average New Zealanders do, we would need three planets to sustain us - our global footprint is currently too large! <http://www.earthhour.org/newzealand>



North Shore City Mayor Andrew Williams says, "Earth Hour is a powerful grass-roots initiative encouraging people around the world to be aware of and moderate their energy use. Our council is dedicated to sustainability and energy conservation, and we are proud to be participating as a partner city in this important global initiative." North Shore City is also a Sustainable Living Education Trust partner, as are many of the Earth Hour supporters, for whom our classes and events in Term 2 offer a great follow-up activity for willing learners, those people ready to make changes in lifestyle and habits. "They become champions for change in their families, communities and workplaces" says National Coordinator Rhys Taylor.

At least eleven other Earth Hour councils are also partners in SLET: Auckland Regional Council, Auckland City Council, Waitakere City Council, Manukau City Council, Environment Waikato, Waipa District Council, Masterton District Council, Gisborne District Council, Greater Wellington Regional Council, Christchurch City Council and Environment Canterbury. Further Earth Hour councils, mostly districts, are potential SLET users. Email: [rhys@\(at\)sustainableliving.org.nz](mailto:rhys@(at)sustainableliving.org.nz) for South Island, or Jennifer@sustainableliving.org.nz for places North of Wellington region.

Rubbish Free Year was possible in Christchurch

Young 30's couple Matthew and Waveney had a spectacular success with their year of waste minimisation www.rubbishfreeyear.co.nz . Photo shows them at a celebration event in their home on February 1st, also organised to be waste-free. The few table top items shown are all the landfill waste that they generated in a whole year! Everything else was avoided by skilful shopping, their own re-use, re-homing for others to use, or recycling. That's newsworthy. The most recent of their TV3 appearances on Campbell Live is available here: <http://www.3news.co.nz/Video/CampbellLive/tabid/367/articleID/85001/cat/84/Default.aspx>



They will follow it up by launching a new website and getting involved in Sustainable Living tutoring, with the Christchurch team. Waveney Warth is co-hosting an evening class series offered at Cashmere High School, from Monday 16 February.

These two also recommend viewing *'The Story of Stuff'*, a 20 minute animated film, which you can find a link to on our website <http://www.sustainableliving.org.nz/What-Is-Sustainable-Living.aspx> and they also like also a three part documentary on packaging, available at <http://nz.youtube.com/watch?v=H5LOHSTcuwI>

More sustainability themes on film...

The Ministry for the Environment has produced (with Landcare Research and Airplane Productions) an interesting short film about sustainability issues and action in New Zealand. *'Balancing Acts'* is used by tutors on some of our courses and also available to view on YouTube in three topic segments:

Water and food at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=koKv2Dp6WjA>

Homes and Energy at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tr3sYVV770w&feature=related>

Travel at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1nY1sNtZqFQ&feature=related>

...web & in print

Support for the national development of Sustainable Living Programme, updating of education materials and evaluation has come from the Household Sustainability team at Ministry for the Environment and from the partner councils. Visit the MfE's Sustainability website www.sustainability.govt.nz to obtain a PDF copy of their booklet of case studies, including one on water efficiency from a Sustainable Living course participant in Hawkes Bay.

Want to write, rather than email?

You can contact Sustainable Living Education Trust for free by surface mail: FreePost SUSTAINABLE, PO Box 13121, Armagh Street, Christchurch 8141.

Copies of A4 size publicity posters and of brochures (with registration forms) available free on request. Also mailbox 'no junk mail' stickers.