



## Term 2 News 2009



### **Lower income? Sustainability is still relevant!**

In early April, a group of women from Glen Innes, in Auckland, met at Te Waipuna Puawai for a tutor-training course. It was run at their suggestion, to make the Sustainable Living material more relevant for life on lower incomes and/or to Maori and Pacific people. The session was the idea of Puamiria Maaka, Manager of Te Waipuna Puawai (Mercy Oasis, a community development initiative sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy). This event was supported by the Auckland Regional Council, one of our partners.

Melanie Voyce, an experienced Sustainable Living tutor, led the session, with assistance from North Island Sustainable Living Coordinator Jennifer Kerr. The eight participants were enthusiastic about Sustainable Living in its present format and generous in sharing their ideas on how existing study material could be adapted to become even more relevant for their particular lower-income communities.



A follow up session was held at the Ruapotaka Marae in Glen Innes. More changes to

the material will soon be ready, for the women on this course to run sessions back in their local communities during the Matariki Maori New Year celebrations, in June 2009.

In March, Palmerston North City Council and SuperGrans Charitable Trust supported a budgeting course led by Sustainable Living tutor Anne Billing, entitled *Skills for Budget Living – Budgeting for the Recession, the Environment, and the Community*.

### **Mandarin Version of Course Highlights**

“Migrants keen to be green” was the headline in *The Aucklander* supplement to the NZ Herald, following a well-attended April Sustainable Living session in Mandarin language, led by Estella Lee and hosted by Auckland City. Ferndale House, Mt Albert, was full to capacity, with more than 80 people, many first-generation migrants. The course was supported by the Auckland, Waitakere, North Shore and Manukau City Councils and the Chinese Conservation Education Trust.

Auckland City Council Eco Design Advisor (and SLET trustee) Eion Scott commented:

“It was a very good response from the Chinese community, particularly from Auckland and Manukau. Many have arrived here from urban areas in China, so to come to New Zealand and hear other people talking about the kauri tree and the native birds in New Zealand was quite inspirational. Many who were there had only a little prior knowledge of sustainability.”



Tutor Estella Lee adds:

"I was excited to see so many people respond. We had to turn some away because there weren't enough seats. The people who attended the talk liked it very much. I used an interactive approach. I got them to think by asking questions, so they worked it through themselves."

She also said there are now 22 people registered for the follow up five-session Sustainable Living course, in Mandarin, being held at the Sustainable Living Centre in New Lynn, starting Thursday 23 April.

Hear Estella Lee speaking about these events on National Radio Asian report at <http://www.radionz.co.nz/national/highlights> (available 28 April)

### **Media for our Messages 1: TVNZ appearances**

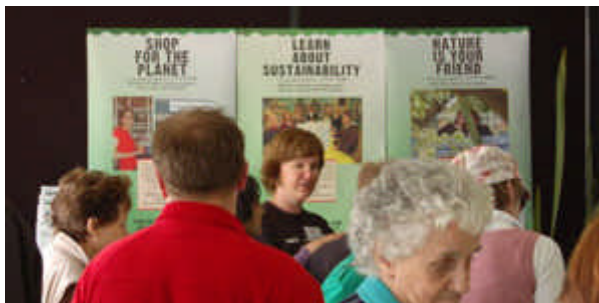
Coordinators Rhys and Jennifer were interviewed on TV1 Good Morning in April, first on Peak Oil and subsequently home energy efficiency. A seven-minute video clip can be viewed, using Flash at: [tvnz.co.nz/view/video\\_popup\\_flash\\_skin/2629134](http://tvnz.co.nz/view/video_popup_flash_skin/2629134).

And also at [tvnz.co.nz/view/video\\_popup\\_windows\\_skin/2629134](http://tvnz.co.nz/view/video_popup_windows_skin/2629134) (an advert shows first).

### **Media 2: Ellerslie Flower Show**



Christchurch City Council hosted a display and distributed brochures about Sustainable Living alongside demonstrations of food preserves, composting, Bokashi, worm farms and garden water efficiency, in their busy tent at the Ellerslie Flower Show. The Show has relocated from Auckland to Hagley Park, Christchurch.



### **Media 3: Joanna's story in 'Thinking Eco' June edition**

Christchurch course participant Joanna features in our latest case study, also published in the June edition of 'Thinking Eco' newspaper. See the full text & photos on our case studies page.

## **Choices Programme launched on the web**

The household sustainability involvement programme called Choices is being developed by the Sustainability Trust in Wellington with support from the Ministry for the Environment, the Hikurangi Foundation and in collaboration with the Sustainable Living Programme - it will be tested on some of our Term 2 courses.



Hilary Campbell from Sustainability Trust says "It involves both face to face engagements: focused on action for personal and planetary wellbeing; and new web based software that provides access to resources, information and calculators designed to help us keep track of our progress in a way that is meaningful and affirms our efforts."

Rhys Taylor from Sustainable Living adds: "We are excited to see the launch of the Choices software in time for our next round of evening courses, giving Sustainable Living participants and tutors first access to this new system in June, where we can test its usefulness."

Course completers will also be able to become 'networkers' who use the associated face to face engagement process to involve and inform others in their household, workplace and community."

For more information, please visit:

[http://www.sustaintrust.org.nz/OurProjects/Current%20Projects/Choices/Choices\\_main.htm](http://www.sustaintrust.org.nz/OurProjects/Current%20Projects/Choices/Choices_main.htm)

## Learning on the Buses



The Cashmere High School evening class in Sustainable Living last term were happy to get outside for one of their sessions, which was held on the timetabled *Orbiter* circular bus route around Christchurch suburbs. Here is the group, presenting their 'Metro travel cards' in the evening sunshine, ready to use the mobile classroom provided by their bus at 7.15pm. They enjoyed a cafe break part-way around the city circuit, and got back soon after 9pm. The evening's discussion topic? Travel choices, including a cafe debate on the pros and cons of car travel, between two teams (pictured below, preparing their cases, on the bus)! Perhaps their next bus trips will be for shopping or a journey to work?



## **It's time for reusable shopping bags**

On the subject of shopping, now's a good moment to make or buy some strong reusable bags for groceries, in order to decline the wasteful and polluting flimsy plastic ones offered at checkouts. Leading the campaign to seek introduction of a charge on supermarket and other shops' plastic bags, to influence behaviour, are *GetReal*, based at Sustainable Living Programme users Wanaka Wastebusters. Angus Ho from *GetReal* told us on 17 April: "The next step is to push for Progressive Enterprises to meet the challenge set by Foodstuffs (New World and Pak 'n Save) and also The Warehouse, who have just announced introduction of charges on their checkout bags." More information is available on their website <http://www.getreal.org.nz>

Shopping choices and waste reduction are two of the topics within Sustainable Living courses, which also cover discussion and practical actions at home on energy efficiency, gardening, water use, travel and eco-building. \*\*\*Hear Rhys Taylor, Sustainable Living Coordinator, talk about shoppers' consumer power at the EcoExpo, Convention Centre, Christchurch, on Saturday 6 June at 11am \*\*\*

## **Courses under way for Term 2**

Term 2 evening classes started late April and early May. Details of many of these courses and single topic workshops are at our regional pages <http://www.sustainableliving.org.nz/Sustainable-Living-Regional-Info.aspx> and Term 3 ones will be added soon. Note that for high school-based courses you will need to contact the Community Education Office at the school, book and pay in advance to secure your place. NEWS FLASH: Community Education is in some turmoil for 2010 after sudden Budget announcements this autumn from the Education Minister that school-based courses are to face an 80% grant cut - more information in our next newsletter.

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## **Want to write to us, rather than email?**

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

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(Previous newsletters available in our archive - read these on PDF at <http://www.sustainableliving.org.nz/Newsletter.aspx> )

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