

Kakariki 

Sustainability Conference '09

“Effective personal actions to reduce the environmental impacts of your lifestyle”



Who are you?

- Introduce yourself to your neighbour.
- Tell them one thing you are passionate about and willing to stand for and why.

You have two minutes each

We need to
deploy our
weapons of
mass creation



So what happens when
we define what is
important, are willing to
make a stand and find
others that feel the same?



PROJECT LYTTELTON

the soul of a sustainable community

Growing sustainable community





Working together

Project Lyttelton is a model of a successful grass roots non-profit organisation that has embraced cutting-edge thinking to become a vision of hope for how people can foster inspiration, work together as community and meet the challenges of a changing world.



Creating a mosaic path for the garden



Collective vision

- When PL embarked on a new path in 2003 a mission statement was developed through a consensus model – the statement was not finalised until all participants agreed that it captured what was important to them.
- This mission statement underpins all of PL's activities.
- Of significant note was the fact that the word “sustainable” was included. The term was not in common use at the time, and it reflects the forward-thinking nature of what the community was working towards.

**“Lyttelton – portal to
Canterbury’s historic past, a
vibrant sustainable community,
creating a living future.”**



Appreciative Inquiry

- PL uses an Appreciative Inquiry approach to everything.
- Projects are seeded then tended lovingly, the focus is on the best in things, what is working.
- People are supported to “champion” things they are passionate about. They are valued for what they bring. Everyone is heard.
- People are attracted, drawn by the values, the simplicity, the inclusiveness and the desire to be part of their community.



“Appreciation is a wonderful thing: It makes what is excellent in others belong to us as well.”

- Voltaire



Significant progress

Through projects as varied as

- Waste minimisation
- Recreation
- Festivals
- Local food production
- Skill sharing
- Education.
- Farmer's Market
- Collective visioning workshops
- Energy initiatives
- Community resource development

PL has contributed significantly to the social, economic, recreational and Environmental wellbeing of Lyttelton.



Lyttelton Farmers Market



Vibrant community

- Lyttelton's Summer Street Party and Winter Festival support local bands, artists and businesses and attract thousands of people every year.
- These events bring the community together and offer opportunities for participation





Growing food locally



Organic produce at Farmers Market

As concern increases over rising oil prices, carbon emissions and global economic conditions PL recognises that relocalising food production is a key factor in building a resilient community.

- The Farmers' Market supports growing and buying local produce.
- Studies show that people at Farmers Markets have 10 times more conversations, greetings and other social interactions than people in supermarkets. (World Watch)



Working on waste

PL is committed to working in harmony with the environment and contributing to solving climate change issues.

Waste initiatives include a waste minimisation scheme where green waste is collected from local restaurants and composted, composting, worm farm and bokashi workshops and a reusable shopping bags promotion.





Energy matters

Project Lyttelton is looking into community energy efficiency and exploring distributed generation options.

- PL has organised insulation bulk deals, an energy survey and trials of innovative technology.
- There are plans to build small-scale biodigester at the community building in conjunction with solar power system as a working model.



Warm wall launch at Harbourlight



The good news is!

We celebrate the good news stories in our community—those stories that enhance our cultural identity, spirit and vision.

- The Lyttelton News comes out as a monthly supplement within the Akaroa Mail and includes interviews and comments and what is happening within the town. It looks at how the community is at its best, and in so doing, it enhances capacity for collaboration and change.



The Lyttelton News is delivered to all Lyttelton households each month by Time Bank members for time credits!!





A learning community

Opportunities to learn and grow contribute to community wellbeing.

- Creative workshops have included mask making, a mosaic path for the community garden glasshouse and puppet workshops.
- Education courses have included numeracy and literacy programmes, Te Reo, computer skills, digital photography and Sustainable Households courses.



Composting workshops in the community garden help people to recognise the value of waste and create healthy soil for growing food.



Building relationships

PL recognises the importance of relationships.

PL believes it is by working together and honouring the relationships with each other, living things and our earth that we will create a vibrant living future that helps ensure the future for generations to come.





Growing the future

At the Lyttelton community garden people communally grow food on a sweat equity basis - do some work, take some food.

The Grow Local initiative is an organic garden project based at Opawa which is based on a community supported agriculture model.

Coming together is a beginning.

Keeping together is progress.

Working together is success.



Lyttelton community garden

~ Henry Ford

Community Currencies

Local currency and bartering systems help to create empowerment and resilience in communities by enabling the trading of goods and services without relying on the national money system.

This helps people get their needs met locally, which is often more environmentally desirable, creates opportunities and builds social capital in communities

Complementary currencies designed for regional and local use work alongside the conventional system.





Time Banking

Time Banking is a way of trading skills in a community. It uses time, rather than money, as the measurement tool.

Members of a Time Bank share their skills with other members within the community and are given time credits for the work they do.

With the credits they gain, each member can 'buy' someone else's time, and get the service they need.



Trading stories: People who need their pets taken care of while they are away, or if they are ill can use Time Credits for this service.



Where did the idea come from?

The Time Banking concept originated in the US, the work of Edgar S Cahn. Since then it has spread to many countries around the world.

Time Banking acknowledges we all have something to contribute and that what we offer is valued.

Project Lyttelton has set up New Zealand's first Time Bank.

Trading stories: A recently widowed woman accessed support and practical help to turn her garden into more lawn as her late husband was the gardener.





Why join a Time Bank?

Time Banking adds a richness to Time Bankers' lives. As a concept it brings 'wealth', in the form of friendship, caring for one another, having our needs met and getting help with things we can't do.

Skills which are often taken for granted are valued - especially non-market economy skills - like mothering, caring, friendliness, listening. All these skills help create a healthy community.

It is important work.

Trading stories: Time Bank members deliver the Lyttelton News each month for Time Credits.





What skills can be shared?

Time Banking can be used in many types of situations. It can simply be a swapping of skills like child minding, gardening, pet care or home help.

For some new members identifying their skills can be a challenge, as they often identify themselves with the job they do within the market economy.

Time Banking is tax exempt, Time Bankers can not offer the services they do as part of their paid work. They need to look at the many other skills they have like fixing washers, mending a fence, sewing, car rides to appointments or running messages.



Members can organise trades directly online with other members and record the hours traded. For those who choose not to use the software, or don't have computer access a phone call to the co-ordinator is sufficient.



Time Banking strengthens community

In Lyttelton as a result of the Time Bank we can see a tighter community forming.

Friendships are forming between people of different backgrounds that would not usually have met. The elderly are being cared for and the skills they share are valued. Special needs people are encouraged to participate.

Time Banking builds relationships and trust in a community.

Everyone has something they can contribute to the wellbeing of the whole.



Trading stories: A young woman with Down Syndrome earns credits from Project Lyttelton stamping envelopes and preparing mail outs.

Be the change –
by living the solution

