

Sustainability News

UC Sustainability Office (Planning, Strategy and Services)

Volume 2, No.9 8 September 2011

Kia ora!

Welcome to this issue of our newsletter, when the leaves are just appearing on our hazelnuts and the first blossoms have appeared on the apricots in our community gardens.

We're really excited to have run the first Eco Change Agents retreat, and will have more on this in our next issue. For now we've got some photos to give you a taste of the action. We are totally geared up for UC Eco Week which begins on Monday 12 September and concludes on Sunday 18 September. We are especially excited to be the Christchurch hosts for the Reel Earth Film Festival (the Southern Hemisphere's premiere environmental film festival).

This newsletter is mostly about what's on next week, and we hope you'll be able to come along to some of the events. We'd particularly like to mention the inaugural UC Sustainability Awards, a time when UC can celebrate some of the great efforts our people have gone to to promote sustainability beyond the normal call of duty. Key highlights since our last newsletter include:

- Getting involved in the UC's submission on the draft Central City Plan
- Running the first ever Eco Change Agents retreat
- Digging the first of the UCSA sponsored fruit trees into the ground at Dovedale
- Organising our Eco Week! (which has been copied now by Lincoln University, we see!)

See you during Eco Week!
Matt, Sharon, and the UC Sustainability Team.



Some of the Eco Change Agents



Students involved in the recent Fix It Night

Fix It Night – A huge success!

Back in July the Sustainability Office was approached by one time eco-my-flatter Rosalee Jenkin to see if we could help her with an idea she had for a Fix-It night, where people get together and pool their resources and skills to fix stuff that would otherwise be thrown out.

'Sure', we said and booked a room. The first date was postponed (Snow no. 2), but on 6 September the first Fix-It night took place in E120 and was even more successful than we'd envisaged. About 30 people attended, were fed a selection of delectable baking and spent the next couple of hours in a whirlwind of activity.

Several bikes were wheeled in for the awesome Dr. Bike crew to sort out, at least 3 sewing machines and 1 overlocker were kept whirring as they mended and re-purposed skirts, jumpers and broken bags, and a skilled knife sharpener dealt to blunt knives and a giant pair of steel dressmaking scissors (for which the owner will be eternally grateful).

New skills were learned, and everyone agreed that we should do it again. And if you missed out, we're thinking of making it a regular occurrence next year, so watch this space.

ECO WEEK

12-18 September 2011

Eco Week is a week of workshops, talks, films and working bees to increase the sustainability skill base of University of Canterbury students and staff, and to demonstrate what is available on campus. As sustainability becomes more relevant than ever, the Sustainability office has a range of programs to increase your sustainability knowledge.

Monday 12th

What's your eco cred? 12-1pm Sharon McIver *Sustainability House, 118 Ilam Road*

Reel Earth Film Festival launch 7-9pm A4 including: *Landscapes at Worlds Ends, Marion Stoddart: The work of 1000, Tide of Change, Grow your Awareness, Streams, A Mongolian Couch*

Tuesday 13th

Dovedale gardening working bee and shared lunch 10am onwards *Dovedale Community Garden*

Cleaning workshop Kate Henry 12-1pm *Sustainability House, 118 Ilam Road*

Waste workshop Sharon McIver 1-2pm *College of Education campus, Otakaro 205* (check web for updates)

Potluck 'Eco eats' and River Dog film screening Potluck from 6pm, Film at 7pm *Sustainability House, 118 Ilam Road*

Wednesday 14th

Gardening group 12-1pm *Okeover Community Garden*

Doctor Bike 12-2pm *Wonderland Market*

Clothes swap 1- 4pm *Sustainability House, 118 Ilam Road* (Drop off clothes any time beforehand)

SoLa film screening 7-8.30pm *A4*

Thursday 15th

Electric transport workshop 12-1pm *Ants Field Sustainability House, 118 Ilam Road*

Sustainability Awards and Housewarming 3-5pm *Sustainability House, 118 Ilam Road*

Cow Boys in India film screening 7-8.30pm *A4*

Friday 16th

Beginners gardening workshop 12-1pm Penny Sewell *Okeover Community Garden*

Gardening working bee 12-4pm *Okeover Community Garden*

Deep Green film screening 7-9pm *A4*

Sunday 18th

UC Explore, a trail along Okeover Stream with talks 2-4pm Meet at *Sustainability House, 118 Ilam Road, 2pm.*

Pizza Party 3.45pm *Okeover Community Garden.*

Ka Pai to reusable plates and Crown Lynn

On Monday the Māori Development Team celebrated their shift to a new location at Te Ao Marama with a free lunch for staff and students, and it was awesome to see such a range of healthy salads served on real plates with not a plastic fork in sight.

If you like to eat and drink using glass, crockery and silverware, the Sustainability Office has been fortunate to inherit (ok, score) some of the stunning Crown Lynn range of plates that once graced the cupboards of the University's residential houses.

Boxes of our nation's favourite retro dinnerware were sitting out the back of the Cleaners' offices designated for the Salvation Army when the Waste Reduction Educator happened to spy them. A van trip later and they are now nestled safely into the equally retro cupboards of Sustainability House, waiting to be used and admired at the many end of year functions coming up at the UC.

If you would like to borrow the range, along with a selection of glassware and cutlery please contact sharon.mciver@canterbury.ac.nz.

We need outdoor furniture

In addition to providing reusable plate-ware for functions, we'd also like to offer the services of our lounge, kitchen, and garden to all UC staff looking for a nice sheltered function venue, but we're in desperate need of some outdoor furniture to go with the BBQ we already have. If you have some weatherproof tables and chairs that you no longer require, we'd love to give them a new home at Sustainability House. Please contact sharon.mciver@canterbury.ac.nz who can arrange a pick-up.

Eel Spotting Event at Okeover Stream

16 Ilam residents took time out (on Fathers Day) to understand more about what lives in Okeover Stream. People spotted Eels / Tuna, learnt how the population of invertebrates in a stream can be an indicator of stream health, and heard about the practice of soaking fibres in Okeover Stream for weaving. For more on the restoration of campus waterways see

<http://www.sustain.canterbury.ac.nz/waterways/index.shtml>

On Sept 18th there is another event focused around the health of Okeover Stream as part of Eco-Week – Details here:

http://www.sustain.canterbury.ac.nz/documents/Okeover_stream_event.pdf

Sustainability Scholarships this year!

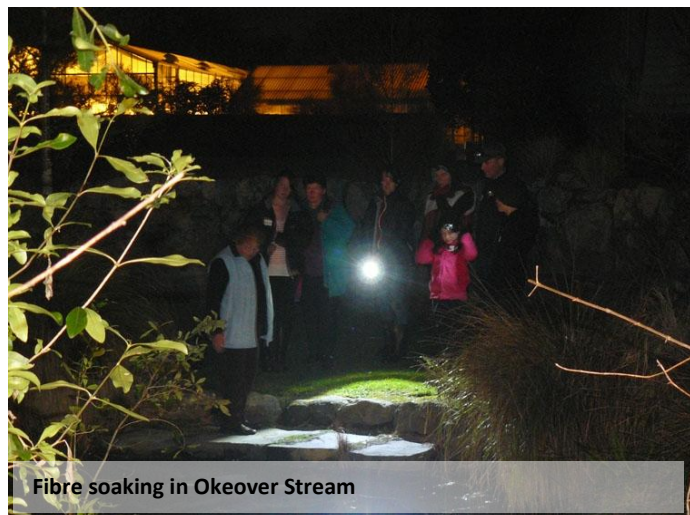
Don't forget that if you're a student thinking about doing postgrad studies next year, you can apply for one of four awesome sustainability scholarship projects. Check them out: <http://www.sustain.canterbury.ac.nz/summer/index.shtml>



The Eco Change Agents at the recent Kaikoura retreat



Change Agents enjoying the sun, and the food, in Kaikoura



Fibre soaking in Okeover Stream

UC Sustainability is on Facebook!

We are on Facebook so please join our community by "liking" us at www.facebook.com/ucsustainabilitycommunity



We also have facebook pages for our community garden and for our carpooling initiative, UC Rideshare. Find them on our main UC Sustainability Community page.

An Opportunity to Engage, with “The Habitat Project”

By Hannah Muir

The shake that woke me up in the middle of the night before my honours presentation reminded me that things are still a little unstable in Christchurch, and that I need to get the word out about an amazing project being undertaken by some extremely talented and engaged students.

[The Habitat Project](#) is a concept that has been developed by two innovative students from Lincoln University, Hannah Ayers and Bailey Peryman. The project will use an online platform, launching this spring, to act as the connective tissue between community based projects and the support they require to be effective.

The platform will allow those interested in participating to locate active, ongoing and professionally-guided support for their community-based initiatives, fostering an accessible, inclusive and vibrant space for cooperative community engagement. The goal is to support **community-led planning, design and education** as a way to facilitate collective action on a local, regional and potentially global level.

There are a number of initiatives *Habitat* are involved in, focusing on the Sumner community to begin with. If you are getting as excited as I did about this then it is time to get involved! Some opportunities include:

- Organising a Symposium on Community-led planning, design and education
- Developing support networks among professional organisations and/or like-minded collectives
- Developing *Habitat's* social media platform – i.e. website, communications, blogs
- Much more immediate help needed – what can you bring to a progressive vision?

In general, The Habitat Project is looking to mobilise other students, academics and young professionals from a diverse range of fields and backgrounds who feel they have something to offer to the project. Any input is welcome regardless of your experience or background. A community project like this requires a community spirit and with this spirit the potential achievements are endless!! Check out the Facebook page at: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Habitat-Project/206729432691987>

You can send all you fabulous ideas and inputs to Bailey: bailey@thehabitatproject.org.nz or Hannah han@thehabitatproject.org.nz. Also, don't forget to check out the Christchurch City Council Draft Plan for the Central City and provide feedback on anything you support, disagree with or think they have missed. Go to: <http://www.centralcityplan.org.nz/>

[Spring Recipe Competition](#)

Submit your spring-themed recipe to be in with a chance to win some amazing prizes, >\$200 in value. Run by local student food blogger [Two Spoons](#) & [Feast of Canterbury](#).

Preparing for White Swans: Climate Change: what are the opportunities for the New Zealand economy?

Date: Thursday 22 September 2011

Time: 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. **Location:** A3

The phrase 'Black Swan', was popularized by Nassim Nicholas Taleb in his work of the same name, it refers to highly improbable events that have the potential to change the way we think about our economies and livelihood.

Our need to adapt to a changing climate change is now certain, suggesting a 'Black Swan' has become a White Swan. With change comes opportunity to develop resilience, and maintain profits and profitability.

In response to the notion that climate change now presents a White Swan, the University of Canterbury is hosting a public lunch time panel to debate the impact of climate change on New Zealanders' health, properties, infrastructure and industries.

Dr **Jim Salinger**, a NZ and international climate scientist, who will speak on direction in climate change science and its impacts on industries and communities in the New Zealand and local context.

Professor of Trade and Economics **Caroline Saunders** will reflect on the implications of climate change for agricultural trade, carbon foot-printing and business opportunities in a changing world.

Leading financial journalist **Rod Oram** will talk on emissions trading and compare New Zealand's climate change targets with our trading partners' targets, and what this means for trade.

For more information contact

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