

URBAN ECOLOGY AUSTRALIA Inc 2002 Annual Report

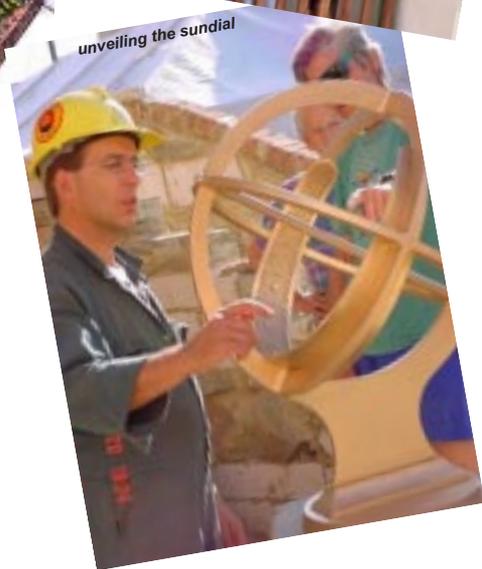
Christie Walk Stages 1 & 2



Solar water heaters



Party time at the Bioregional Banquet



unveiling the sundial



Some of the founding members of EcoCity International



Professor Jan Gehl at Christie Walk



Urban Ecology Australia Inc

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Convener's Report

EcoCity Projects

Stages 1 and 2 of the Christie Walk project are near completion so the picture of a functioning community is emerging. Owners are now in all of the townhouses in Stage 1 and gardens are making the area pleasant. As the building work in that area is finished, there can be a start on the growing of trees and plants (including lots of vegetables) in the community garden and on the roof garden. Landscaping of the whole area will also start soon. The vegetation is important for the proper functioning of the passive solar design of the buildings.

The roof garden over the apartments is now fenced and the area prepared ready to put in the soil and start planting. Residents (and future residents) have been consulted about what they would like to see in the gardens.

Three meetings of the Christie Walk Community Corporation have been held. Michael Pilling has been appointed as Presiding Officer. Discussions have included the appointment of a Strata Manager and allocation of car parks to residents.

Stage 3 will be developed on the front of the block by a newly formed company EcoCity Pty Ltd. Stage 3 is planned to include 13 apartments, an area for the international Centre for Urban Ecology and a community house incorporating laundry, kitchen facilities and a meeting hall.

Grants

- Work on the Natural Heritage Trust's Coasts and Clean Seas project will start on Wednesday 27 November due to delays by State Government.
- SENRAC grant (\$20,000): The objective of this project is to determine whether the homes in Christie Walk are indeed low energy dwellings and if so how much better are they than the SA average.
- GVEHO (Grants to Voluntary Environment and Heritage Organisations) core funding grant of \$6,750.
- Support in kind from the Green Corps program of Conservation Volunteers Australia. A team of young people worked on various tasks around the site, including strawbale building. Work on the roof garden included planning of the area.

Education, Advocacy & Campaigns

Site visits:

Fortnightly site visits have continued throughout the year. There have been around 400 visitors from the general public, and another 400 to 500 people came to the site on Solar House Day.

The University of Adelaide brought 60 students from their Environment program, and more than 120 secondary students from five schools were shown around as part of urban studies courses. Three groups of 15-20 students from Underdale visited the site as part of a sustainable cities course.

Site visit by Department of Environment & Heritage and Energy SA (Sharon Ede) – 11 people.

Visitors:

Visitors to Christie Walk have included • Professor Jan Gehl from Copenhagen with Eleanor Button from Adelaide City Council; • Mike Hill & Lorna Pitt from WestWyck Brunswick (Victoria) who are developing a primary school site as an ecological village; • Stephanie Key, Minister for Housing in State Parliament; • John Hill, Minister for the Environment; • members of the Environment, Resources & Development Committee; • Peter Garrett, President of ACF; • Mary Hill US Geologicval Survey; Graham Houghton, Dept of Geography University of Hull; • representatives from Energy SA and EPA ...

Talks and Lectures:

- UEA Board member Sharon Ede has given a number of presentations on the Ecological Footprint, and produced a 2 page fact sheet 'Sustainability, Food Systems & the Ecological Footprint' for the Bioregional Banquet.
- Paul Downton has made presentations to • The Annual General Meeting of the Global Education Centre; • the Options Group; • a Science group; • Addercom SciFi group.
- Chérie Hoyle and Paul Downton both attended Ecocity V in Shenzhen City in China; Paul as a plenary speaker and Chérie as a speaker. Her paper was entitled '*Indoor Air Quality in an EcoCity - an economic impediment or a future necessity?*' Paul's paper was entitled '*4 Propositions, 7 Steps, 3 Projects*'
- Monica Oliphant spoke at SWAP (save water & power) shows at Glenelg and Marion (the latter with Paul)

Education, Advocacy & Campaigns (continued)

Media:

- Paul & Chérie have both appeared regularly on Carole Whitelock's Long Lunch on Radio 5AN. Paul has been interviewed for other radio.
- A range of news items.
- Channel 7 (Today Tonight) visited Christie Walk and interviewed Joan Carlin and Chérie Hoyle about Healthy Homes.
- Solar House Day publicity in the Advertiser featured Roman's Strawbale house
- Chérie stood as #1 Candidate for the Legislative Council on the SA Nuclear Free Future ticket & managed to get more TV & Radio interviews than anyone bar Labor, Liberals, Democrats.
- UEA Board member Michael Pilling presented a series of radio programs called *Solutions Now* on Radio Adelaide 101.5FM.
- Many newspaper articles featured Christie Walk.

Shadow Plans:

The Shadow plans for years 1835 -2135 were cleaned and finished by UEA Board member Natalie Wills and were displayed at the Bioregional Banquet. They will eventually be housed in the international Centre for Urban Ecology.

Newsletter & Publications

- Paul Downton was awarded his PhD for "*Ecopolis – towards an integrated theory for the design, development & maintenance of ecological cities*".
- Urban Ecology newsletter produced four times a year. Articles on Christie Walk prepared and updated.
- 'making place in an urban sense' written by Paul Downton for Artlink magazine

Website

A student from University of SA has been working on the Urban Ecology website as part of an assignment. A volunteer will take over the work of regularly updating the website.

Committees/Forums:

- Chérie attended a forum on private investment run by Adelaide City Council and the Department of Housing.
- Chérie Hoyle represented Urban Ecology Australia at the City Living Forum formulating policy for the future population of Adelaide
- Paul attended three Green City Workshops
- Chérie Hoyle represented UEA as vice chair on the Adelaide City Council Environment Advisory Forum
- Chérie also represented UEA on the National Air Toxics Steering Committee and Air Toxics Indoor Air Quality working group.
- Chérie is the Founding Vice President of EcoCity International, and Paul is a Founding Member.
- UEA Board Member Monica Oliphant was convener of the Solar House Day Committee.

Events

- **Bioregional Banquet** (*Celebrating 10 years of Urban Ecology*) – April 21 – was the highlight of the year. More than 100 adults and children attended and feasted on a great variety of organic (mostly from the Tandanya Bioregion) foods. Foods were prepared and served by a team of wonderful volunteers. A huge marquee was set up over the carpark area – loaned and set up by City South. The banquet was also the occasion to unveil a sundial put in place to commemorate the lives of three people who were key to the Christie Walk project; Joan Bourne, Scott Christie and Beverley Vaughan.
- *Sustainable Housing: Moving to mainstream: innovative solutions and practical ideas* Seminar February 28 – as part of a seminar series throughout Australia, organised by the Australian Greenhouse Office. Paul Downton was a co-speaker in Adelaide with Brenda and Robert Vale and John Maitland.
- *Gardening in Small Places*: slide show and chat with Ian Lillington, Permaculture designer.

Fundraising

- A flier **Eco Logical Cities** was produced and inserted into the SA New Internationalist magazine.
- Two film nights were held – *Rabbit Proof Fence* and *Beneath Clouds*
- A raffle was organised with the first prize a beautiful Permaculture design quilt made by Chérie Hoyle. Chérie also organised other prizes.

Interns

- **Emily Alfred** (Canada) - A student at the University of Waterloo, Emily continued her internship into 2002 .
- **Pierre Chanut** from University of Mannheim. His work was to study the environmental impact of materials, especially those used in the Christie Walk development.
- **Eva & Oliver**, two interns from the Saarland in Germany studying environmental planning at the University of Applied Sciences in Birkenfeld, Germany. For five months they worked on a research project to calculate embodied energy by finding out what materials i.e. type, amount and origin, have been used for the Christie Walk Project .
With the information on type, amount and origin of materials, they calculated the embodied energy.
- **Sebastian Wilk** studied planning issues for ecological cities.
- **Ori Epstein**, a student at Tulane University in New Orleans, where he studies environmental law with an emphasis on urban planning and land use issues.
His project was to provide a framework so that the ecological footprint of the Christie Walk development could be calculated some time in the future. The concept of the ecological footprint is fairly simple and straightforward – basically, it is a measure of the land area required to sustainably accommodate all the materials that a person (or household, business, development, city etc.) consumes and to meet the needs of disposing of their waste. The footprint calculation process, however, is a bit more daunting. Properly calculating a footprint requires an intimate understanding of and fluency with statistics, Microsoft Excel, and environmental analysis.
- **David Buetefuer** from University of Adelaide studied Christie Walk and the organisations involved, and identified areas for future organisational improvement.

Premises

A \$1,000 option was paid to Wirranendi to secure a place for Urban Ecology Australia in Stage 3. Stage 3 designs show a small interpretative Centre for UEA on the Sturt Street frontage.

As Stage 3 is being constructed UEA will have to find a new home; we have made an agreement with Paul Osmond to co-lease his ground floor apartment (in Stage 2) along with EcoCity Developments (ECD) and Wirranendi. A portion of rent will therefore need to be paid.

Branches

ACT – Activities for ACT office 2002 have included:

- A tour of Charles Sturt University Thurgoona campus - a showcase of sustainable building practices
- Guest lecture followed by a one-day workshop by Sarah West on the development of eco-villages.
Sarah spent a year touring several dozen eco-villages in the USA and Europe to see how they work.
- AGM and annual quiz night fund-raiser
- The 2002 Green Living Fair has been postponed to early 2003 due to difficulties in obtaining public liability insurance.

Victoria – In 2002, Urban Ecology Australia (Victorian branch) continued to build its network of like-minded people from all walks of Melbourne and beyond. Those who could attend meetings in the city enjoyed a number of inspiring presentations from a cross section of presenters - from architects and planners to residents and activists. We held meetings approximately monthly (every third Tuesday at the Royal Australian Institute of Architects meeting room in the heart of Melbourne). We tried some new ideas too, for example, providing wine and cheese as refreshments in return for a gold coin donation to cover costs. A movie fundraising night was also held at the wonderful old Westgarth cinema in Northcote, inner city Melbourne. Highlights for presentations this year included:

- * Louise Barbon presented *Windgrove: The Peace Garden*, a project that is located at Roaring Beach on the Port Arthur Peninsula in southern Tasmania. The Peace Garden is dedicated to the creation of a sustainable peace within the individual, between people, and, between humanity and the rest of the living world.
- * Daryl Taylor, a resident of Kinglake, presented the inspiring story of how the residents and community from the Kinglake region (approx 100km from Melbourne) are working together to respond to a Council Strategic Plan proposing changes to the planning schemes in the area.
- * Ian Khoo described his experience with taking a sustainable approach to design on a Royal Children's Hospital extension, and how the ESD issues were considered throughout the course of the project.

We look forward to further inspiring presentations and other networking activities in 2003!

Finances

| Income | | | Assets | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | 2002 | 2001 | | June 2002 | June 2001 |
| Membership | \$5,478 | \$1,055 | Current Assets | \$11,225 | \$6,774 |
| Donations | \$13,850 | \$15,207 | Other Assets | \$1,000 | \$1,000 |
| Sales, talks net of costs | \$5,334 | \$1,985 | Fixed Assets | \$8,530 | \$3,600 |
| Grants* | \$6,750 | \$6,750 | Debtors/Inventory | \$3,438 | |
| INCOME | \$31,412 | \$26,841 | TOTAL ASSETS | \$24,193 | \$11,374 |
| Expenditure | | | Liabilities | | |
| Wages costs | \$9,706 | \$4,611 | Current liabilities | \$1,527 | \$1,822 |
| Administration | \$11,029 | \$14,454 | Long-term liabilities | \$15,400 | \$15,400 |
| Maintenance | \$1,576 | \$2,349 | GST/PAYG | \$2,720 | |
| Promotions | \$1,256 | \$504 | TOTAL LIABILITIES | \$19,647 | \$17,222 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | \$23,567 | \$27,424 | Equity | | |
| | | | Total equity | \$4,546 | (\$5,848) |

**Grants & liabilities do not include the Coasts & Clean Seas grant. Equity is reduced to an overall deficit of \$2,726 once grant figures are included*

Audited financial statement available on request

Staff

OFFICE MANAGER

Barbara Sheppard

BOOKKEEPER

Iosif Cheva

VOLUNTEER
COORDINATOR

Jeremy Urquhart

Board Members

Paul F Downton Convener & Public Officer

Sharon Ede Vice Convener

Natalie Wills Secretary

Thanasis Avramis Treasurer

Joan Carlin

Stephen Hardy

Chérie Hoyle

Monica Oliphant (co-opted)

Michael Pilling

Other Volunteers

COORDINATOR - Chérie Hoyle

Brett Aylen

Ben Aylen

Claire Fulton

Jo Morandin

Tim Noonan

Brendan O'Connor

Roman Orszanski

John Latassa

Margaret Rohde

Norm Rohde

Ed Wilby

Julia Winefield

Jeremy Urquhart

Chris Bryant

Chris Hales

Effie Best

Ian Bourne

We have named just a few of the wonderful volunteers (there are too many to mention them all by name) – Urban Ecology Australia is indebted to them for their invaluable support