



Taking responsibility for  
a sustainable future

# Lincoln Envirotown Trust Newsletter

## August 2011

For the summary of up-coming events scroll to the end of this newsletter

### What's been happening?

## LET Kidsfest Environmental activities from other cultures



The LET kidsfest event was a great success and we had lots of helpers, 7 Lincoln High School students, plus a teacher, as well as Noelani Velesquez, Iana Stoliarova, Pauline Jarvis, Matthew and Katherine Hadler. We had about 30 children and about 17 caregivers. They came from as far afield as Rakaia, Little River, Springfield, Leeston, Prebbleton, Rolleston and a number from Lincoln. The caregivers also joined in the activities! People made elephants from milk bottles, beads from magazines, baskets from newspaper, Chinese lanterns, Japanese origami cranes and Maori poi. The younger children coloured in pictures of endangered animals from around the world. Thank you to Lincoln New World for donating magazines.

## Mahoe Working Bee 7th August

Thank you to all who helped – about 19 people, two dogs. Children came with their parents and a number of students from Lincoln High School did a great job. The students were coordinated by Matthew Young – thank you Matthew.



Thank you to Molten Media for donating a computer and to Matthew Hadler for setting it up with Open Office.

### Lincoln Community Gardens

For more information about getting involved in the garden please ring Ruth on 325 2193

## What is coming up?

### September Workshop at Lincoln Community Gardens

**September 10<sup>th</sup> at 10 am, at the Gardens**

**(behind the Lincoln Maternity Hospital, James Street)**

The programme will consist of demonstrations of composting, both by tumbler and manual methods, and a presentation of environmentally-responsible products.

Compost tumblers make great compost within 14-21 days in your own garden. "Big Boy" compost tumblers are easy to use and enable the compost to be tumbled, giving it better aeration with less effort. Come to the Workshop and see Daphne demonstrate these tumblers, and give them a go yourself. All tumblers ordered with "Lincoln Community Gardens" mentioned will result in a portion of the proceeds going towards the Gardens.

Terry Windle will share his extensive experience of compost making using manure, green waste and other materials.

"The Eco Family" will be explaining the environmental benefits of using Soap Nuts a completely natural, chemical-free way to clean your clothes, dishes, benches etc. whilst saving money on water and electricity. These are ideal for people with sensitive skins. June/Ian will also bring along a selection of stainless steel drink bottles for all the family and discuss the detrimental impact of plastic bottles on the environment and the health of your family. A selection of "The Eco Family" products will be available to inspect or purchase.

If you haven't visited the Gardens yet, we invite you to come and see what is happening. The workshop is free, but a donation of a gold coin to support the Gardens will be appreciated. Please park on James Street, not in the Hospital grounds.

For further information, contact the Gardens Coordinator, Ruth Wood (Phone: 325 2193 or email [ruth.wood@xtra.co.nz](mailto:ruth.wood@xtra.co.nz)).

**At the conclusion of the workshop, at 11.30, a meeting will be held on-site for current plot-holders and those intending to be involved in the Gardens, to plan for the new season 2011/2012.**

## **Mahoe Reserve Spring Planting Day Sunday the 4<sup>th</sup> September at 2.00pm**

We supply the plants, please bring tools, gloves, buckets and if possible a wheelbarrow or two would be good!

Where: Mahoe Reserve, Boundary Road, Lincoln, next to the Golf course, opposite the High School. For more information contact Sue Jarvis 3295858

The Mahoe Reserve relies on community helpers to keep going. If you are part of the Lincoln Community, or even if you are not, we would really appreciate your help at working bees, or at any time that suits you! Contact Denis on 325 2806

### **Friends of Mahoe**

If you want to be on the email contact list for Mahoe planting days and working bees, let us know.

You are also welcome to join the Mahoe management committee. Only a few meetings a year! Contact Sue on 329 5858 or [sue.jarvis@orcon.net.nz](mailto:sue.jarvis@orcon.net.nz) for information.

## **Springs Road/Gerald St Corner Native Planting Working Bee Sunday September 11<sup>th</sup> 10.30am**

We need helpers to mulch the trees and weed. Bring tools and gloves. We need some extra tools, so if you could bring extras, that would be great! For more information contact Ralph Scott

[Ralph.Scott@plantandfood.co.nz](mailto:Ralph.Scott@plantandfood.co.nz)



Support our local businesses that are doing their bit for sustainability.  
A list of local businesses that have gained a LET Responsible Business Award for environmentally sustainable practices can be found on the LET web site.

Don't feel right about the environmental impact of car cleaning?  
Feel even less right about having a dirty car?



### **Introducing Eco Touch Premium Car Care Products Now available in New Zealand!**

Eco Touch Premium Car Care Products are non toxic, biodegradable, phosphate free and packaged in 100% recyclable materials.

**\*Waterless Wash \*Metal Polish \*Window Clear \*Quick Wax  
\*Dashboard Protect \*All Purpose \*Carpet & Upholstery**

**FANTASTIC FATHER'S DAY GIFTS**

Shop online at [www.ecoperformance.co.nz](http://www.ecoperformance.co.nz) or PH 0800 742627 and get free shipping.

## **Lincoln Envirotown Trust Meetings – get involved, meet like-minded people**

LET meetings are normally held the **FIRST MONDAY** of each month at 7:30 pm in the Lincoln Event Centre meeting room off North Belt. We often have guest speakers. All welcome!

**For more information** Please contact Sue Jarvis, 329-5858 or [sue.jarvis@orcon.net.nz](mailto:sue.jarvis@orcon.net.nz) .

**NEXT meeting is 5 September**

### **PLAN CHANGE 29**

The Council has notified a change to the district plan to encourage and require improved design from development in town centers, including Lincoln. LET has put in a submission and the hearings will be **24-25 August** at the Lincoln Event Centre. The full plan change is here:

<http://www.selwyn.govt.nz/services/planning/plan-changes/plan-change-29-design-of-development-in-business-1-zones/pc29-design-of-development-in-business-1-zones>



Look at what your local market has got in store for you ! .....

**Special Community Markets every month 10 am – 1 pm, Gerald Street, opposite Challenge Garage.**

**Sept 3<sup>rd</sup> – Children's Market**

Our regular favourite Children's Market. Children can sell their crafts / toys on their very own stall. Enjoy great family fun - hands on activities for children including musical fun with Melodies Pre-School. **Contact June on 03 325 7226 if your child wishes to have a stall – limited number available.**

**Oct 1<sup>st</sup> – Spring Market**

Come celebrate the start of Spring with live music, dancing and flower garlands. **This marks the start of our weekly markets running every Saturday through to April 10 am – 1 pm.**

**End of Oct (Date to be confirmed) – Home Brew Competition**

**A massive hit last year.** Back by popular demand, Surprise well-known personality will join us to help judge the best brew in the area (including best ginger beer). For more info or to register your entry, **call Michael on 021 283 1119.**

**Come spend a morning at your growing market.** Great Community Spirit and a wide range of LOCAL produce and craft stalls at every market.....

Baking, Breads, Preserves, Seasonal veg, Free range eggs, Salad, Pesto, Cakes, Chocolate delights, Nougat, Pizzas, Plants, Flowers, Natural fruit Cordials, Eco products, Seasonal fruits, Mushrooms, Honey, Hazelnuts, Lavender & natural skin care products, Jewellery, Handmade cards, Art and photographic art, Pottery, Handmade clothing, Children's soft toys and gifts, Felt Boards, Aprons and scarves etc.

Contact Debbie 027 478 5005 for further information or for a **free fundraising stall**

**Follow us now on Facebook (just look for Lincoln Farmers and Craft Market)**

**Do you have environmental goods or services to advertise? Or does your business have a high standard of environmental management? We accept ads from businesses that fit with our aims. \$80 +GST for a full page, \$40 half a page etc. Not for profit environmental organisations may be accepted at no cost. Any money goes to support our activities promoting environmental sustainability.**

**2011 Responsible Business Award assessments have STARTED**

**If you want to get in contact with your local assessor contact Sue who will give you the details. 329-5858 or [sue.jarvis@orcon.net.nz](mailto:sue.jarvis@orcon.net.nz)**

**Last year's winners are on our web site:**

**[www.lincolnenvirotown.org.nz](http://www.lincolnenvirotown.org.nz) click on tab bottom left of home page.**

**You can search for Lincoln, Leeston or Prebbleton Businesses**

**Please contact us if you would like to be involved. If your business already has an award you will need to be reassessed to keep or upgrade your certification. This year we will also include Rolleston Businesses.**

**Remember to support your local sustainable businesses – and also reduce your “shopping miles” – see who they are on our web site.**

**Earth Hour 2012** – we will be planning a week of activities leading up to earth hour – starting soon. We would like representatives from as many Selwyn communities as possible to help us with the planning. So far we have organised another Kim Hill Hot Energy Debate, 29 March 2012 and an Earth Hour Barn dance 31 March 2012. Let Sue know if you are interested. 329-5858 or [sue.jarvis@orcon.net.nz](mailto:sue.jarvis@orcon.net.nz)

**You don't live in Lincoln but would like to make a difference?**

**There are links on the LET web site for information about the other Enviro communities.**

**There are Sustainability Groups in other communities:**



### **ROLLESTON ENVIROTOWN**

**"A better environment starts with you"**

Rolleston Envirotown meetings are held on the third Tuesday evening in the month (during winter starting at 7.00pm and during summer starting at 7.30pm). The meeting venue is Community House in Rolleston, 45 Shelley Street. Email Nicole [tonicermu@gmail.com](mailto:tonicermu@gmail.com) or phone Catherine 347 8240 if you are interested. All welcome. Visit [www.rollestonenvirotown.org.nz](http://www.rollestonenvirotown.org.nz)

The Rolleston Envirotown Market for produce (includes organic) and craft is held on the second Sunday in the month 10am to 1pm. The market is sited in the Rolleston Square carpark area alongside Rolleston Drive. During inclement weather the market will be held along by the shops. BUG-R offer free bicycle maintenance at some of the monthly market days.

The Rolleston Envirotown Community Garden is being led by Sacha, if you would like to help contact [sacha.murray@hotmail.com](mailto:sacha.murray@hotmail.com) The group meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month in the Community House, Rolleston.

The Rolleston Envirotown Community Garden group greatly appreciate any help as they continue the process of the creation of their community's garden. For more information, donations, or to simply lend a hand contact Sacha on [sacha.murray@hotmail.com](mailto:sacha.murray@hotmail.com) or alternatively ring 03 347 8175. They would like to thank the church and sponsors for their help and support to get them to this point.

Without this support this project would not have been possible. **Next Working bees are 13 August and 10 September at 10.00am**

## SPRINGSTON ENVIRO-COMMUNITY



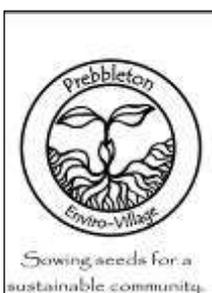
The Springston Enviro-Community (SEC) meetings are held on **the 4th Monday of the month**, 7.30pm at the Errol Tweedy Pavilion, Springston Domain, Ellesmere Junction Road. Everyone welcome! The next meeting is on the **22 August everyone welcome**. Come and meet up with a group of enthusiastic locals. If you want to find out more, contact Sue on 329 5858.

**Springston has drafted a Sustainability Action Plan for their community – following a survey and two public meetings. They already have a community garden planned, with land kindly provided by a local resident. This will be a joint use between the school and the community. The Springston Community Committee has also restarted their community newsletter, as this was one of the complaints from people that filled in the community survey.**

**The next SEC meeting will be discussing the details of the garden, among other things.**

## LEESTON ENVIRO TOWN

For more information about Leeston Envirotown Phone: Margaret on 324 3949, or contact Mel [melissa.renganathan@gmail.com](mailto:melissa.renganathan@gmail.com) Leeston took part in the Selwyn Earth Hour lead up, and ran a kids activity morning. They also have a Leeston and Southbridge Responsible Business Award to encourage businesses to operate in an environmentally sustainable fashion. The 2011 assessments have already started, if you want to know more contact Margaret.



## PREBBLETON ENVIRO-VILLAGE

If you would like to find out more about Prebbleton Enviro-Village please call Nicola Willett on 3497990 or email [n.willett@xtra.co.nz](mailto:n.willett@xtra.co.nz) . Prebbleton ran a very successful torch light walk for Earth Hour to which about 30 people turned up. They ran a Responsible Business Award for local businesses in 2009 and 2010, They have conducted a community survey and produced a community sustainability action plan. The top issue for the locals is walking and cycle ways.

PEV have worked on a biodiversity corridor along the rail trail cycle way to Prebbleton. They are planning to have community workshops soon on topics such as composting.

## LITTLE RIVER

To contact the Little River group ring Kaite Hansen on 325 1917 or [believe33@snap.net.nz](mailto:believe33@snap.net.nz)

## WEST MELTON ENVIRO-COMMUNITY (WMEC)

Interested in Sustainability and Environmental issues?

You are invited to meet with likeminded people to discuss and plan environmental sustainability actions for the West Melton area including the development of WMEC mission statement and objectives. A draft has been written of the mission statement and objectives and further work needs to be done on then action plan.

Where: West Melton School Library

When: **Thursday 8 September at 7.00pm**

Meetings are on the second Thursday of the month. All welcome.

If you would like more information about meetings please do not hesitate to contact Heather McHarg [heather@westmelton.school.nz](mailto:heather@westmelton.school.nz), 347 8448

or Ingrid McGeachen [info@westmeltonenviro.org.nz](mailto:info@westmeltonenviro.org.nz)

See the new West Melton Enviro-Community web site! [www.westmeltonenviro.org.nz](http://www.westmeltonenviro.org.nz)

### **West Melton Energy Expo**

Solar water heating and wind and solar energy generation were the topics from the West Melton Community Survey that people most wanted to know about. So the WMEC are planning to hold an expo on Energy issues including practical help such as the installation of alternative generation 6<sup>th</sup> November. If you are interested in exhibiting or in providing a workshop or in being a speaker, please contact Ingrid (details above).

### **TAI TAPU**

If you live in **Tai Tapu** we are hoping to arrange an initial meeting soon. If you are interested contact **Sue on 329 5858**

### **BURNHAM**

If you live in or near Burnham let us know as there is interest in getting a group going there.

### **DARFIELD**

If you live in **Darfield** we are hoping to arrange an initial meeting very soon. If you are interested contact **Sue on 329 5858**

***The Lincoln Envirotown Trust is providing encouragement and support to these communities as they get underway with their sustainability plans.***

**If you live in another community and would like help to get a group started, contact Sue.**

**We also help other communities outside the Selwyn area.**

We have set up "**on line communities**" for all the "Enviro" groups linked to LET, under the umbrella of "Selwyn groups" <http://selwyncom.onlinegroups.net> . **Have a look!** The idea is to allow a small community or a street etc to easily contact each other – perhaps to say "we have extra pears, who would like some" etc. John Veitch has been our "coach" – Thank you, John

**A speaker programme** is part of our aim to be a role model for other communities and provide help and support for them to progress towards sustainability. If you would like a speaker for your group or community contact Sue on 329 5858.

# Stuff for Enviro Kids

Please send us any ideas, information or links for Enviro Kids!

**Lincoln High School Environmental Council (LEO)** is planning to test the Liffey stream again for water quality, probably 30th September 12.15 pm. Contact Matthew Young for more information. [mattforestryoung@gmail.com](mailto:mattforestryoung@gmail.com). The public are welcome to come along.

Check out the teacher resources at the HotRock website. <http://www.thehotrock.org.au/home/> These are created for secondary school students, but have been adapted with success for older primary students.

HotRock is a NfP that is guiding, funding and resourcing sustainability education in Australia. Integration of sustainability education into the mainstream curriculum is the focus of their approach.

HotRock is looking for schools overseas that are prioritising action focused sustainability education. It would be wonderful to link these schools up with sustainability-focused schools over here in Western Australia. Students sharing project outcomes across the oceans.

The Lincoln Envirotown 2011 Writing Competition  
The Presentation ceremony will be soon!

**Earth Hour 2012 Video Competition: are you interested in making a video with an environmental theme?**

## Other useful info

<http://www.youtube.com/user/signsofchangeconf> Signs of Change Conference 2010 - NZ's E-Conference for Sustainability. See video of speakers including our own great supporter- Prof Steve Wratten

On a hot August night would you offer your throat to the wolf with red roses? No? Fair enough given that August nights in Canterbury are usually still pretty cold and the last thing we feel like doing is opening up the front door to a stranger with drooling fangs and bad breath. But how about offering up any unwanted curtains to our Community Curtain Bank so they can be recycled into energy efficient ones and donated to those who not only can see the wolf through the window but are cold on the inside too?

The search for a new home for Community Energy Action's Curtain Bank is finally over and we are pleased to announce that they will be open for business at Unit 8 - 310 Wilsons Road on the 9<sup>th</sup> August. If you have any curtains you no longer require please drop them off at one of the curtain bins listed [here](#). If you have a community services card and do not currently have curtains in your

home (doesn't matter if you own or rent) then you may be eligible for free curtains. Click [here](#) to find out how to apply for them.

### ***Who are we?***

We are a home energy advice service operated by Community Energy Action, providing free and practical information on how to make your home warmer, healthier and more energy efficient. You can call us on **0800 388 588** between 10am – 4pm Monday to Friday or e-mail us with your questions at [energyadvice@cea.co.nz](mailto:energyadvice@cea.co.nz). We try and answer all queries within two business days.

### ***What's Hot***

**Homestar™** is a Joint Venture partnership between [BRANZ](#) and the [New Zealand Green Building Council](#). You can work out how energy efficient your home is by using their free online tool found [here](#). If you need some help using the online tool give us a call. We are also in the process of qualifying to become Home Star, in-home coaches. Watch this space.

### ***Cold Comfort***

Small heater + large room (+ drafts/poor insulation) = high power bills. We have heard of people being offered free heaters by various radio promotions over the last month or so to help them get through winter, which is great, but if you notice your power bill increasing it could be because that “freebie” is too small or the wrong type of heater for the area that you are trying to keep warm. In May we published this [newsletter](#) full of tips on how to choose a heater that is right for you.

### ***Get connected – news, events and websites of interest***

#### **Off the grid**

Thinking of building a new home then it may pay to have a look at this [article](#) that was published in The Press recently about building plans for a new home that doesn't connect to the electricity grid in Canterbury.

#### **Eco Fest – Trafalgar Square Nelson 20-21 August 2011**

Take a break from the aftershocks and learn something new at the same time. A weekend of all things eco including energy efficiency. For more information click [here](#)

#### **The Empire State building to go green.**

Click [here](#) to read an interesting article about how this iconic building plans to reduce its energy consumption by 40% (approx \$4.4 million per year) through an energy efficiency retrofit.

### ***Energy Fact***

Firefly lights are the most efficient lights in the world—100% of the energy is emitted as light. Compare that to an incandescent bulb, which emits 5% of its energy as light and the rest as heat, or a fluorescent bulb, which emits 90% of its energy as light. Because it produces no heat, scientists refer to firefly lights as “cold lights.” This month's energy fact is courtesy of [www.firefly.org](http://www.firefly.org)

Kind regards

Carolyn, Katie and Adam

Home Energy Advice Centre

Where are you Otautahi - Christchurch?

**Councils asked to go solar in 'The Solar Promise'**

<http://www.solarpromise.org.nz/>

*The Solar Promise* campaign aims to encourage all New Zealand councils to embrace solar and help protect their communities from the rising costs of electricity and continuing oil depletion.

On behalf of Kiwis facing higher energy costs, the Nelson City Council, Nelson Environment Centre, and SolarCity have launched *The Solar Promise*, calling for councils, as well as central government, individuals and businesses, to do what they can to make solar more affordable, to help New Zealanders save money and combat climate change.

Nine mayors, led by Nelson Mayor Aldo Miccio, held a briefing in Wellington calling for all other mayors and their councils to consider solar options for their communities.



Aldo Miccio says that a 2008 feasibility study carried out in partnership with the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (EECA) and SolarCity showed the government's solar grant alone was not enough to help communities go solar.

"The study was clear: families want the immediate cash benefits from solar's savings,

but they need to spread the cost of solar for it to be affordable," Miccio says. "From these needs, the Solar Saver Scheme was born - an innovative rates-based financing mechanism to help home owners spread the cost of going solar. At the time, the Nelson City Council also chose to waive solar resource consents, to further reduce the barriers to solar.

"The Solar Saver Scheme has been a huge success for Nelson," he says. "In the scheme's first year Nelson families put more solar systems on their roofs than the whole of Auckland City, immediately getting up to one week's free power every month.

"The goal of *The Solar Promise* is to make solar more affordable, and there are many ways that individuals, businesses and local government can support that happening," he says.

"Nelson City Council's pledge to *The Solar Promise* is to continue to waive resource consent fees for solar installation, retain the Solar Saver Scheme, and encourage all councils to consider a number of key solar policies in their upcoming Long Term Plan."

Other Regions, Cities and Districts supporting *The Solar Promise* include:

- Hastings
- Wellington
- Marlborough
- Tasman
- Dunedin
- Invercargill
- Southland
- Gore
- Whanganui.

Otautahi - Christchurch appears to be missing from the list at the moment - is it time to catch up? This is an idea we can all push with our elected representatives.

## Submissions:

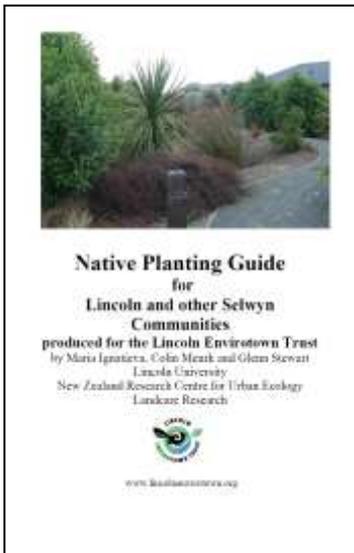
LET frequently makes submissions to Government, ECan and the SDC as well as to other organisations. If you are interested in helping with submissions or have an issue you think that LET might be interested in making a submission on, please contact Sue on 329 5858

## Get Involved!

We have a number of sub-committees and interest groups – let us know if you would like to join groups interested in energy generation, water conservation, native biodiversity, children's environmental education, reducing light pollution (starlight project) and many other groups – you could start one! Our energy generation group is collecting information about the feasibility of wind and solar generation, which will eventually be available on our web site.

## Lincoln and Selwyn Native Planting Guide – now updated!

Ever wondered which native New Zealand plants might add that special something to your landscaping? A Lincoln and Selwyn planting guide written for LET with help from Landcare Research and Lincoln University will help with basic background information and planting suggestions.



This guide will help you decide which native plants are suitable for your garden. It gives ideas for shrubberies, hedges, pergolas, herbaceous borders, native lawns, rock gardens and rain gardens. Ecosourced natives are much more likely to survive in our local conditions, without as much care and watering as non-natives. Be part of the Greenway Canterbury movement aiming to spread corridors of natives from the mountains to the sea so that our threatened native plants and animals have somewhere to live and can move from one habitat to the next. This guide is available from the Lincoln Library and Lincoln CRT Real Estate. It is also available as a downloadable file from our web site:

[www.lincolnenvirotown.org.nz](http://www.lincolnenvirotown.org.nz). Thank you to Kiwiflora and Southern Woods for their sponsorship.

## Fed up with all that junk mail but still want to receive the local papers?

Collect one of our mail box stickers from the Lincoln Library for a gold coin, or contact us



## Borrow the LET Cent-a-meter

The LET Cent-a-meter is a tool that assists homeowners with information about their own energy use. The Cent-a-meter is available from LET for at least \$5 dollars donation and a \$100 refundable deposit. **If interested, contact Sue Jarvis at 329-5858.**

## Summary of up-coming events

Date	Event	Where
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> August, 7.30pm	Springston Enviro Community meeting	Springston Domain
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> August, 12.00-2.00	Transition Forum	WEA, Gloucester Street
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> August	Minister for the Environment, Nick Smith, visits Lincoln Envirotown	Lincoln
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> September, 11.00-12.30	PHA conference delegates tour Lincoln Envirotown.	Lincoln
Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	Children's market	Lincoln, by old community centre.
Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> September 2.00pm onwards	Spring Planting	Mahoe Reserve, Boundary Road All welcome. Please bring your own tools and gloves.
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> September, 7.30pm	LET meeting	Lincoln Event centre
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> September at 7.00pm Meetings are on the second Thursday of the month.	West Melton Enviro Community meeting – working on the action plan	West Melton School All welcome
Sunday September 11 <sup>th</sup> 10.30am Or Any time	We need helpers to mulch the trees and weed. Bring tools and gloves. For more information contact Ralph Scott <a href="mailto:Ralph.Scott@plantandfood.co.nz">Ralph.Scott@plantandfood.co.nz</a>	Springs Road/ Gerald Street corner planting on Plant & Food land
Third Tuesday of month 7.00pm (in winter)	Rolleston Enviro Town Meetings	Rolleston Community House
Second Tuesday of the month	Rolleston Community Garden meetings	Rolleston Community House
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> March 2012	Kim Hill Hot Energy Debate	Lincoln University
Saturday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	Earth Hour Barn dance	Lincoln Event Centre