

ESR Events 2006

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Piglet the Great of Karaka Bay and other Christmas Stories

Event report available: [Piglet the Great of Karaka Bay and other Christmas Stories](#)

- **Speaker:** Tony Watkins
- **Date:** Thursday 16 November 2006
- **Time:** 7:30pm
- **Venue:** Room 3.407, School of Engineering, The University of Auckland, 20 Symonds Street

A sustainable city would have pigs rather than dogs and cats, but changing attitudes is never easy. Piglet has become the friendly not-quite-Revlon face of sustainability, featuring on television and in newspapers all over the world. Her BBC news item in 2005 was voted the best programme of the week, and went onto roll-over. For Piglet however roll-over means a loving massage, to which she is very partial, along with cream buns. Tony's book *Piglet the Great of Karaka Bay* suggests that saving the world not only should be fun, but also that it will never happen any other way. Laughter is socially responsible.

To end the year Tony will entertain ESR with light-hearted tales of Piglet, and endeavour to convince you that pigs are more important than politicians.

If you would like to know more about Tony or Piglet check out www.tony-watkins.com

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A Worldwide Study of Sustainable Transport

Event report available: [A Worldwide Study of Sustainable Transport](#)

- **Speaker:** Steve Abley
- **Date:** Thursday 19 October 2006
- **Time:** 7:30pm
- **Venue:** Room 3.407, School of Engineering, The University of Auckland, 20 Symonds Street

Steve Abley was awarded a Hume Fellowship in 2005, which enabled him to travel to 8 countries and 13 cities, speaking with the world's leading transport professionals on sustainable transport. The objective of the award was to enable Steve to influence NZ transport planning professionals with overseas best practice. His journey included Rio de Janeiro, Curitiba, Lima, Bogota, Boulder, Portland, Amsterdam, Delft, Houten, Drachten, London, Singapore and Perth.

On his travels Steve observed mainstream sustainable transport modes, including walking and cycling. Steve summarised his trip as a dichotomy of major differences that exist in transport planning policies, that sustainable transport can be accepted, safe, cheap, healthy and fun, and within a fairly short plane trip it can also be perceived as unacceptable, unsafe, expensive and not fun. Not everything he saw overseas was applicable in New Zealand although often a city's improvement from a very low base is a case study in decision making and the strength of an individual leader. Steve found every city visited had something to offer in terms of how NZ could improve.

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Sustainability Planning and Actions in Local Government

Event report available: [Towards a Sustainable Future for the Auckland Region](#)

- **Speakers:** Anne Magee - Executive Manager, CEO's Office Auckland Regional Council; Alan Johnson - has an academic background in planning and economics
- **Date:** Thursday 21 September 2006
- **Time:** 7:30pm
- **Venue:** Room 3.407, School of Engineering, The University of Auckland, 20 Symonds Street

The Local Government Act 2002 requires local governments to take a sustainability approach. Ann Magee and Alan Johnson will discuss initiatives from across New Zealand. They will focus on a major project which aims to achieve the sustainable development of the Auckland Region. This programme builds on the Auckland Regional Growth Strategy (1999) and the Sustainable Development Programme of Action. Ann and Alan will seek comment from those attending the session.

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Reclaiming Auckland's Resources

Event report available: [Reclaiming Auckland's Resources](#)

- **Speaker:** Warren Snow - Director of Envision NZ Ltd
- **Date:** Thursday 17 August 2006
- **Time:** 7:30pm
- **Venue:** Room 3.407, School of Engineering, The University of Auckland, 20 Symonds Street

Warren has proposed to the city councils of the Auckland region that they should establish a resource recovery network to reduce the cost of sending waste to landfills and reclaim reusable products and recyclable materials. In 10 years from 1993/94 Auckland's waste has trebled to over 1 million tonnes per annum. The cost will be over \$1.6 billion over the next ten years if we continue as at present. Warren has proposed a network of 7 resource recovery centres initially at a cost of \$17 million funded by reallocation money spent on inorganic collections, income from the sale of reusable products and recyclable materials, and a levy on waste going to landfills.

Warren also believes that the introduction of container deposit legislation is needed to reclaim beverage containers. He is actively seeking support for this proposal, including organising a tour to South Australia to see the results of container deposit legislation there.

Warren has worked in the area of community economic development for 20 years. He helped establish Auckland City's kerbside recycling scheme. He managed The Tindall Foundation, New Zealand's largest philanthropic organisation, for five years and in 1987 co-founded Zero Waste New Zealand Trust, serving as a Trustee until 2000. He also helped establish the Recovered Materials Enterprise Trust, Waste Not Auckland and Gyro Energy Ltd. Warren established Envision NZ Ltd in September 2000 to support communities and organisations working towards sustainability.

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Wind Turbine Developments and Installation

Event report available: [Wind Turbine Developments and Installation](#)

- **Speakers:** Ema Reid - Meridian Project Engineer, Ray Brown - Meridian Transmission Manager
- **Date:** Thursday 20 July 2006
- **Time:** Refreshments 7:00pm, Talk 7:30pm
- **Venue:** Room 3.407, School of Engineering, The University of Auckland, 20 Symonds Street

Ema Reid will introduce Meridian's wind farm development projects including the construction of the Te Apiti Wind Farm.

Ray Brown will discuss the integration of the wind farms into the national grid and the associated challenges that presents, particularly in compliance with the electricity governance regulations, power system studies, etc.

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THE END OF SUBURBIA: Oil Depletion and the Collapse of The American Dream - (Video)

- **Date:** Thursday 15 June 2006
- **Time:** 7:30pm
- **Venue:** Room 3.407, School of Engineering, The University of Auckland, 20 Symonds Street

"We're literally stuck up a cul-de-sac in a cement SUV without a fill-up"

- James Howard Kunstler

Since World War 2 North Americans have invested much of their newfound wealth in suburbia. It has promised a sense of space, affordability, family life and upward mobility. As the population of suburban sprawl has exploded in the past 50 years, so too has the suburban way of life become embedded in the American consciousness.

Suburbia, and all it promises, has become the American Dream.

But as we enter the 21st century, serious questions are beginning to emerge about the sustainability of this way of life. With brutal honesty and a touch of irony, *The End of Suburbia* explores the American Way of Life and its prospects as the planet approaches a critical era, as global demand for fossil fuels begins to outstrip supply. World Oil Peak and the inevitable decline of fossil fuels are upon us now, some scientists and policy makers argue in this documentary.

The consequences of inaction in the face of this global crisis are enormous. What does Oil Peak mean for North America? As energy prices skyrocket in the coming years, how will the populations of suburbia react to the collapse of their dream? Are today's suburbs destined to become the slums of tomorrow? And what can be done NOW, individually and collectively, to avoid *The End of Suburbia*?

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People Power - Electrifying a Village in Papua New Guinea

Event report available: [Power to the People](#)

- **Speaker:** Prof. Jack Woodward
- **Date:** Thursday 18 May 2006
- **Time:** 7:30pm
- **Venue:** Room 3.407, School of Engineering, The University of Auckland, 20 Symonds Street

The lights were switched on for the first time in the village of Faseu on 29 November 2005. The totally voluntary project was funded initially by the village community and a group of overseas donors. The early track record of funding and construction attracted subsequent grants from Aus AID and NZ Aid. Elements of the scheme are a microhydro plant, a 1000 volt underground cable, and reticulation to communal buildings in the village. A strong community and external support

overcame the hostile environment created by Government apathy, collapsing rural infrastructure, and the absence of qualified, supportive in-country NGOs. Replication of the scheme is widely desired, but could it happen?

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ESR Annual General Meeting

- **Date:** Monday 24 April 2006
- **Time:** 5:30pm
- **Venue:** Lecture Room E10, College of Engineering, University of Canterbury, Creyke Road, Christchurch

Business:

To receive annual reports, branch reports, elect the 2006 Executive and consider items of general business.

Nominations are called for President, Secretary and Treasurer. [The present President, elected 2003, is not eligible for re-election.]

A Fossil Fuel Free Future

Event report available: [Ideas for a Fossil Fuel Free Future](#)

- **Speaker:** Steven Bright
- **Date:** Thursday 20 April 2006
- **Time:** 7:30pm
- **Venue:** Room 3.407, School of Engineering, The University of Auckland, 20 Symonds Street

The last year, with the spiralling of world crude oil prices, has seen greater interest in alternatives which reduce demand. Many of the proposed solutions have only attempted to reduce our dependence, with the assumption that asking for more would lead to an unacceptable change in lifestyle. This talk will outline a series of solutions to current applications that use fossil fuels with the intention of reducing our dependence to zero and often involve updating technologies last used before fossil fuels became widely available. The fields include cooking, air conditioning, land transport including on farm, and a series of vessels for maritime commerce.

Steven Bright was one of the founder members of ESR and having been a regular attendee at meetings is familiar to most members. Having at one stage worked in the electricity industry as a power systems analyst he retired in 1989 to pursue other interests. One of these was the problems associated with the inevitable decline in availability of cheap fossil fuels.

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ESR National Conference 2006

It has become necessary to defer the ESR 2006 Conference which was originally planned for 25 March 2006. The ESR AGM will also be re-scheduled.

We are now looking at alternative dates and venues. One proposal suggested is to combine with the Sustainable Energy Forum (SEF) for a shared conference later in the year.

Separate arrangements will be made for the Annual General Meeting.

Information on both of these will be circulated through the normal channels, once new venues and dates have been determined.

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Vehicle Emission Testing

Event report available: [Vehicle Emission Testing](#)

- **Speaker:** Prof Thomas Neizert - AUT University
- **Date:** Thursday 16 March 2006
- **Time:** 7:30pm
- **Venue:** Room 3.407, School of Engineering, The University of Auckland, 20 Symonds Street

What is killing 400 New Zealanders including 250 Aucklanders prematurely every year? How clean and green are we? What kind of nasties are our cars belching out, when we only want to drive to the dairy?

In an international comparison cars on New Zealand roads are disadvantaged as far as the fuel is concerned we provide. But we also do not have any on-going testing regimes linked to the Warrant of Fitness in place like all other developed countries. Modern cars with new or updated engine technologies reduce fuel consumption and emissions considerably, if we give them a chance and look after them. What are the options with regards to technologies, education and standards to become cleaner and more benign?

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ESR Auckland Branch Annual General Meeting

- **Date:** Thursday 16 March 2006
- **Time:** 7:00pm
- **Venue:** Room 3.407, School of Engineering, The University of Auckland, 20 Symonds Street

The business of the meeting will be to receive the Auckland Branch annual reports and to elect the incoming Auckland Branch Executive, followed by general business pertinent to the Annual General Meeting.

Nominations are called for the positions of Auckland Branch Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Committee members. Prior nominations are preferred, but will be accepted at the meeting.

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