

We Start With...

A two minute period of silence - a moment of peace.

From the 'Chair'

We are no longer able to meet in the very comfortable and convenient Highgate Presbyterian Church Hall, as that building needs earthquake strengthening. We thank the Highgate staff for their welcome and assistance over many years.

We are fortunate to be able to meet in the St John's Church Hall on the corner of Wright Street and Highgate. Once we have got used to these new premises, we should find them welcoming and friendly too.

The first thing to get used to is the access. St John's Church is on the corner of Wright Street and Highgate and the vehicle access is on the very corner of these two streets. It is much easier to access this entrance coming from the south (i.e. Roslyn). There are seven generous carparks and good turning space, past the church at the end of the driveway. Members with mobility issues will find this excellent. Other members are asked to park in Wright Street (or Highgate) and walk up the driveway.

Gretchen

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Our Next Meeting

Each year at this meeting we ask members to share their thoughts on a particular word or topic. This year the word is '**community**' and you are asked to contribute your thoughts over two or three minutes in any way you wish.

For example:

- What does community mean to me?
- What communities do I belong to that I value?
- What does a community need in order to be effective?

In addition, the four Dunedin members who attended the annual Sea of Faith Conference in Silverstream (Hutt Valley) will talk about the presentations and other features of this very successful conference.

Member Contributions

Feedback from Conference

Thursday, 24th NOVEMBER

NEW VENUE

**St John's Church Hall,
Cnr Wright St and Highgate**

**Tea and Coffee
will be available from 5.30pm**

**The programme will start at
6.00pm**

Contribution - \$4

Sustainable Dunedin City

Dunedin members will remember the splendid address we had from folk leading the Sustainable Dunedin programme. After that talk we were added to their monthly newsletter and we have advertised and attended several of their lectures and demonstrations.

Last month I attended a lecture at the Hutton Theatre on electric cars and had a drive in one later. I will say that I loved the ride and am going to look into them further. Our 14 year old car is due for replacement in the not too distant future.

Simonne Wood, (Chair, Sustainable Dunedin City) writes in this month's Sustainable City Newsletter...

I am currently reading Barbara Kingsolver's "Animal, Vegetable, Miracle - a Year of Food Life". This is a very readable piece of non-fiction, combining an engaging personal journal of a year of her family's life on a lifestyle block in South Western Virginia with a series of articles on the damage caused by the corporatised American food industry to health, environment and communities. She makes many thought-provoking comments along the way, but I was particularly struck by a quote she included from the American author and environmental activist, Wendell Berry:

"Eaters must understand that eating takes place inescapably in the world, that it is inescapably an agricultural act, and that how we eat determines, to a large extent, how the world is used."

Prompted by this I have started an experiment for a month to eat almost exclusively South Island food. This is not so much because I think this is something that I need to do long term (though I think it is likely I will move more in this direction), but more an exercise to make me look more carefully at where my food is coming from and how it is produced. As a result, I am appreciating even more than usual the Farmers Market and the few shops that clearly indicate

the origin of their food. I am also appreciating what a huge variety of wonderful food is produced in the South Island. At the same time, I am realising that the vague packaging of supermarket food "made from local and imported ingredients" often shields us from knowledge of the food production methods and transportation that we are implicated in. Without that information, it is difficult for us to respond fully to Wendell Berry's challenge to take responsibility for the impacts of our food choices.

BBC Radio Podcasts

Many of our readers enjoy a good radio programme, and there are a few to enjoy on Radio New Zealand. I also find the BBC a wonderful source of intelligent discussion. One programme in particular 'Faith and Reason' is introduced by commentator Ernie Rea and each programme he takes a topic such as; Children's literature, Turkey, Clergy during the Troubles (in Northern Ireland), Trauma, Religious Education, Hair, Sharia Councils and so on. Ernie and guests consider different aspects of the topic – and they don't always agree with each other by any means.

The BBC makes these programmes freely available on podcasts on their web site and 'back issues' are available.

There is no cost for these and if you have a (free) computer programme such as iTunes on your PC or Apple machine, you can set the software to 'subscribe' to Faith and Reason so it is downloaded automatically and you can listen when you have time. I can recommend BBC Radio as a source for stimulating listening.

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