

# Port Chalmers Transition Town Proposal

21 August 2009

## What is a transition town?

Transition Towns are a vibrant, international grassroots movement that brings people together to explore how communities can respond to the environmental, economic and social challenges arising from climate change and resource depletion. They are about igniting and supporting local responses - by anyone, at any level - with the aim of weaving them together into a coordinated action plan.

A Transition Town is somewhere that is harnessing local creativity to come up with real, practical solutions for how that community can manage the transition to a lower energy future.

## What is the advantage of becoming a transition town?

These changes can lead to the rebirth of local communities, which will grow more of their own food, trade locally, and perhaps even generate some of their own power. Local resilience means that each community provides more of what it needs. This means that as the transport and manufacturing costs of our global economy increase (with the price of oil), a resilient community will actually have more high quality goods and services available, and greater opportunity for meaningful employment, as it will have invested its wealth in local people and local businesses. This all leads to a happier, healthier community.

## Why Port Chalmers?

Port Chalmers is ideally suited to become a transition town. It already has a great number of successful community projects that suit the Transition Town ideal. These include: the community gardens; the plastic bag free campaign; community fundraising quiz nights; ping pong political evenings; cycle way campaigns; a town hall; a ride share program is getting under way and numerous others projects are ongoing. It would be great to put those things together in order to raise awareness about them. This would give them a bigger impact, get more people involved and allow other groups to see what is going on here. By becoming a Transition Town it allows others to see that all these projects going on here are part of something bigger - it validates them in some way.

## What is involved?

Essentially this involves consultation with the community to see if they would like to become a transition town (eg. via a short article in the Rothsay News). If general approval is received then Port Chalmers would be registered on the [www.transitiontowns.org.nz](http://www.transitiontowns.org.nz) website. A tentative plan would involve establishing a small steering committee (~ 5 people) to get things up and running. This would involve setting up contacts and promoting the community projects that are

already up and running in the context of a Transition Town movement. Examples of this would include regular website updates, street parties and gardens picnics with stalls for the different community projects.

### **Street part event to kick things off!**

Assuming the transition town idea goes ahead we would like to kick things off with an event to let people know about it. Our idea is to have a street party on Sunday the 1st of November. The street party would be during the afternoon, and would consist of a community bbq, some information on transition towns and the different community projects and live music. We would like to hold the street party at the intersection of Grey St, Mary St, Island Tce, Constitution St, and Magnetic St. This would involve blocking the intersection off for about 4 hours in the afternoon while the street party was going on. This would not cause a major disruption to traffic flow as there are alternative access routes to each of these streets, and the bus timetable shows one bus at 1pm, and another at 5pm on a Sunday, and we would be happy to run the event between these times so as to not interfere with public transport.

### **What do we want from the community board?**

Primarily, we are asking for the support of the community board, and a commitment from the board to help out in whatever way they can for transition town projects.

In addition, we request permission to hold the street party community event as explained above. This includes permission to block off the streets between 1pm and 5pm on the 1st of November.

Furthermore, individual funding applications have also been submitted to the Community Board for projects that sit under the transition town umbrella - these are the street party and community gardens funding requests. We ask that these be noted as transition town projects, but that they be considered separately from this request for general support from the Community Board.

Submitted by: Jonathon Clearwater, Lani Evans, Joe MacDonald, Solis Norton. Sarah Orchard and Carolyn Timms.

Please contact us through Jonathon via email [jonathonclearwater@gmail.com](mailto:jonathonclearwater@gmail.com) or phone 0210604090.