

Upcoming Friday Forum

Date: **8th March 2013**

Time: **9am - noon**

What: **Visions of a Liveable City**

Featuring presenters Dr. Ir. Ron McDowall, Dr. Niki Harre and Geoff Cooper giving their different perspectives on ***what does a liveable Auckland really look like*** and what is critical to consider in developing a roadmap towards developing liveability.

This will be followed by refreshments and facilitated discussion on the ideas generated from these presentations.

Where: WA Conference centre (WA224), **Auckland University of Technology City Campus**, Main entrance 3, 55 Wellesley Street East

We acknowledge AUT in its support for this event through providing us a venue.

There are numerous international systems to measure the liveability of cities, each including and prioritising different aspects of social, cultural, environmental and economic life. In each of these Auckland rates differently, however with the strong current focus towards **making Auckland the most liveable city in the world**, we need to turn our attention towards contextualising our definition and measurement of liveability and how we intend to build a roadmap to get there.

The Sustainability Society wants to support robust dialogue and generation of ideas around what makes a liveable city and what it will take to get there. We hope that this first Forum will lay some foundations from which we can offer further exploration, local and global case studies and relevant research during 2013.

Geoff Cooper will present his perspective on what liveability means for Auckland.

Geoff is the Chief Economist of Auckland Council. Prior to this he was economic advisor at the former Auckland City Council. Geoff has extensive experience working across local government, NGO, NFP sectors including at the United Nations in New York. Geoff also founded a micro-finance bank in South Asia, which has been running a successful and sustainable operation servicing Asia's poorest for the last 6 years.



Geoff provides strategic economic advice to council executives, the Council and the Mayoral office on major investment and environmental threats and opportunities across the regional, national and international economy. Geoff is a well known figure across the Auckland public sector, and academic community, as such he was a finalist for the young New Zealander of the Year in 2010 and in 2012 he won the Institute of Public Administration's New Professional of the Year.

Dr. Niki Harre will provide her view on what liveability means from her research and experience.

Niki is an associate professor at the University of Auckland where she has taught social and community psychology for fourteen years. She is the co-editor of Carbon Neutral by 2020: How New Zealanders Can Tackle Climate Change and author of Psychology for a Better World: Strategies to Inspire Sustainability. Her main research interests are in social activism and youth development and she has published over 40 peer-reviewed articles. Niki lives in Pt Chevalier, Auckland, New Zealand and has three children. She is a founding member of the Pt Chevalier Transition Town, cycles to work, learns the guitar from a musician who lives on her street, and has a large organic garden thanks to her husband.



Dr. Ir. Ron McDowall will offer his insights on what liveability means for technology and infrastructure and what needs to be considered in developing a roadmap to get there.

Dr. Ir. Ron McDowall PhD, M.Phil, BBS/BSc, F.IPENZ, F.NZIM, M.RSNZ, M.ASCE

Ron McDowall joined the University of Auckland in 1997 as the Director of the International Centre for Sustainability Engineering and Research. He is a Chartered Professional Engineer and a member of the International Professional Engineers register. He is a Fellow of the New Zealand Institute



of Management (F.NZIM), a Fellow of the Institution of Professional Engineers New Zealand (F.IPENZ) and a professional member of the Royal Society.

He is a UN specialist scientist/engineer working in the area of sustainable development in developing countries and travels the world on UNEP missions and is a world expert in toxic chemical waste management. His teaching focuses on sustainability and society's expectations of business. His research is focused on complexity management, decision theory, judgment, and over the horizon sustainable technology design. He is currently a senior lecturer at the University of Waikato Business School in the MBA programme.