

## Newsletter 2 – September 06

### RASNZ Dark Skies Group

Welcome to the second newsletter of the Dark Skies Group of the RASNZ.

#### Dark Skies Lighting

A few developments are occurring at the moment such as energy efficient and sky friendly lighting around Queenstown Lakes District.

29/8/06

KINGSTON is about to go up in lights.... and fancy lights at that

From early next month, the Kingston community will be the first nationally to benefit from the installation of a new, environmentally friendly form of street lighting.

Lakes District Council parks director Paul Wilson says the new lamps use less energy to generate more light but without any sky glow.

He says they're designed to send light downwards, thereby heightening the visibility of the stars and not affecting the alpine and scenic setting.

Mr Wilson says the council will spend 1 million dollars introducing the lights throughout the district in the next 3 years.

#### Malcolm Gayfer

Reporter / Presenter  
NewstalkZB / Classic Hits  
Radio Network Invercargill  
[www.radionetwork.co.nz](http://www.radionetwork.co.nz)

The essence is that we are moving to 100% full cut of and have selected the [Thorn Civic 1](#) flat glass lantern with electronic gear.

We are typically moving from MV to HPS or MV to Metal Halide. Most of the energy saving is from replacing either 80W to 160W MV with 70W HPS. Currently MV accounts for 25% of out total lamps but 37% of our energy bill for streetlighting.

**Paul Wilson**  
Director of parks and open space,  
Queenstown Lakes District Council

#### IDA Conference in Sydney

The [First IDA Asia-Pacific Conference](#) is being held alongside the [Illuminating Engineering Society of Australia and New Zealand \(IESANZ\) Annual Convention](#) on 26–28 October 2006. The theme will be “Our Lighting Future”; allowing good opportunities for useful discussions about how we can better work together to practically improve the nighttime environment resulting in major benefits for everyone.

I am attending this conference and have been asked to speak on the New Zealand DarkSkies scene.

#### Campaign for Dark Skies

The British Astronomical Association's Campaign for Dark Skies (CfDS) will stage the SIXTH EUROPEAN DARK-SKY SYMPOSIUM in Portsmouth in SEPTEMBER 2006.

<http://www.dark-skies.org/> (see link to "CfDS 2006" on first page).

#### Urban Design Protocol Action Plan Monitoring

We are coming up to the first round of action plan monitoring. The purpose of the monitoring is to help enable the Ministry for the Environment measure the contribution made by you, the signatories, towards meeting the Protocol's vision of making towns and cities more successful through quality urban design. This monitoring is not an audit; it is designed to help us identify what's working, what's worth promoting and sharing among signatories, and where we can help support you collectively.

The survey's focus is on gathering data from signatories to help develop an overall picture of the collective contribution toward achievement of the Protocol's vision. It will also identify factors that have contributed to, or perhaps hindered, the progression of actions. Identification of examples of specific actions which may later (with the signatory's agreement) be used to illustrate certain action outcomes or processes is also anticipated.

#### Urban ecology 'Down Under' symposium:

"Cities are the future...returning to our rural roots won't save the planet" (New Scientist, 17 June 2006)

A "must-go" opportunity for all local government planners, ecologists and resource managers!

This seminar was held at Victoria University, Wellington, Tuesday 29 August 2006. I sent a note to one of the organisers pointing out that the RASNZ are campaigning to reduce the waste lighting that spills into the night sky throughout urban areas in New Zealand. One aspect of the effects that result from light pollution of the night environment is the impact that artificial light has on urban flora and fauna. I referred them to <http://www.muskokaheritage.org/ecology-night/scotobiology-article.asp> and pointed out that the Scotobiology site promotes the study of the "ecology of the night". It introduces the topics of disruption of circadian rhythms, and navigational confusion for insects and birds.

I have not had a response....hmmm!

### **Te Raekaihau Point resource consent hearing**

Vicki Irons and Paul Moss gave evidence at the Te Raekaihau Point resource consent hearing during August.

*The chairman of the hearing said to Vicki and Paul that over his years of hearings he had heard many pleas for light, but we were the first for darkness, "and so eloquently put".*

Well done Vicki and Paul. Perhaps you could provide an update report on the outcome of this hearing for the next newsletter?

### **Talk Environment**

*The Ministry for the Environments flagship event is out on the road again from 27<sup>th</sup> October to 10<sup>th</sup> of November.*

*Senior managers and staff from the Ministry will be visiting regions throughout New Zealand to talk with business, community groups and local government about the work the Ministry is doing. Topics include water, waste, national environmental standards, environmental reporting and climate change.*

*We look forward to meeting with you and hearing your views about our policies and programmes and direction.*

*Keep an eye out for more details on dates and venues on our website at [MFE](#)*

These breakfast sessions are a good opportunity to get our message across to MFE and to other participants. Have a look to see if you can make it to an event. Book early as they do fill up.

### **Lighting Efficiency Stakeholder Group**

In June this year the Electricity Commission called for nominations for consumer interest groups for membership of the LESG. This group was set up to provide guidance for the establishment of the New Zealand Efficient Lighting Strategy. I was nominated for this group but wasn't selected.

However the Electricity Commission have indicated that specialist sub groups may be established, on an as needs basis, to assist the Stakeholder group in its work. We may be approached to assist.

That's all for now.

Best regards,

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<http://rasnz.org.nz/DarkSkies.htm>