



**SEE-CHANGE**

COMMUNITIES CREATING A SUSTAINABLE CANBERRA

# **Chairman's Report to the Annual General Meeting**

**Tuesday October 19<sup>th</sup> 2010**

**[www.see-change.org.au](http://www.see-change.org.au)**

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## **Introduction**

This is my second annual report on activities in SEE-Change Inc. Annual meetings are a good time to take stock of where we have come from and where we think we are going.

In the four years since its launch as part of the Nature and Society Forum, The Canberra SEE-Change Movement has become a recognisable presence on the ACT scene. Growing numbers of people are engaged in a range of community and neighbourhood activities aimed at reducing their own ecological footprints. There is growing interest in food choice as a means of reducing our ecological footprints and considerable interest in installation of solar panels and retrofitting houses to be less demanding of energy.

But the city's CO2 emissions are still rising and we remain a society that is deeply committed to consumption. The real challenge of sustainability remains.

## **Our 2010 Review Day**

SEE-Change has been reviewing the successes and failings of the burgeoning organisation since its inception. Each year we hold a day-long Review Day and have recently added a convivial dinner for members and families, with an emphasis on local food (BYO), and inspiring entertainment. Because it is so central to our operation I have included the summary report of the Review in full, below.

## **The Review Process**

The aim of the day was to reflect back on:

- what we've done and learnt
- what we've achieved and are proud of
- what we want to see continue
- what we could do differently
- what our focus activities will be for the coming year

Facilitated by Barbara Pamphilon, Director of the Australian Institute of Sustainable Communities, University of Canberra, approximately twenty people participated in the one-day review workshop. Empowerment Evaluation<sup>1</sup> methodology was used that enabled participants in a structured process to:

- Review their vision for SEE Change based on their experience
- 'Take stock' of SEE Change's activities and how well we do those activities
- Distil lessons learnt including successes and improvements needed
- Determine priorities for action and develop action plans.

## **Vision Process: What is your vision for SEE-Change based on your experience?**

The vision for SEE-Change, as discussed by participants, included many overlapping and interlinking concepts and ideas. They can generally be broken up into four categories: Growth, Change, Connect and Support.

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<sup>1</sup> Fetterman D.M (2001) Foundations of Empowerment Evaluation. Sage Publications. London

### 1. Growth

- Expanding SEE-Change as a whole as well as local groups
- Increasing memberships numbers (including volunteers) and expanding the resource base
- Raising SEE-Change's profile within the community and increasing the overall influence of SEE-Change

### 2. Change

- Achieving real action on climate change now
- Creating sustainable lifestyles
- Creating sustainable communities and a sustainable future for Canberra
- Community building and resilience building for Canberra
- Creativity and flexibility

### 3. Connect

- Collaboration with government and other agencies
- Sharing of knowledge and skills
- Connecting with the community as a whole
- Encouraging, supporting and facilitating community involvement
- Empowering people to take action
- Involvement of a diverse range of people, e.g. involving youth
- Learning together with others in the community

### 4. Support

- Supporting others who want to achieve change
- Providing information, education and awareness about how to reduce your carbon footprint
- Demonstrating ways in which one can reduce their carbon footprint.

While there was no defined intention to change SEE-Change's current vision and mission statement, participants were asked to reflect on these. Suggestions were put forward that words such as 'vibrant', 'connected', 'collaborative', 'creative', 'social', 'economic', 'global', 'empowering' and 'resilient' were also relevant to our cause. There was also a general consensus that the mission could reflect the urgent and ongoing nature of our work.

### **Taking Stock: What activities have characterised SEE-Change and how well are they done?**

*Thirteen overarching activities* that participants felt characterised SEE-Change were distilled from the 'taking stock' discussion. Each participant then gave a score of between 0-10 to each of these activities as to how well they thought these activities were being done (0 indicating the activities were not being done well and 10 that the activities were being done very well). The activities, definitions and average scores from all participants are listed below, in order from most to least well done.

Activity	What the activity refers to	How well it is done
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		<b>(Av. score between 0-10)</b>
<b>SEE-Change Profile</b>	The overall awareness of the Canberra community towards SEE-Change, its purpose and image and how SEE-Change is promoted.	6.7
<b>Advocacy</b>	How well SEE-Change represents and lobbies its interests around climate change issues with the local and national government.	6.6
<b>Facilitating Learning</b>	The ways in which SEE-Change assists learning around climate change issues such as providing information, spreading awareness etc .	6.4
<b>Internal Organisation and Communication</b>	How the different groups within SEE-Change communicate and the effectiveness of the organisational structure.	6.4
<b>Connecting People</b>	The effectiveness of collaboration, referral and community building strategies used by SEE-Change in bringing people together for a common cause.	6.4
<b>Project/Program Activities</b>	The actual projects, tasks, events and activities undertaken by SEE-Change. E.g. bulk buys	6.2
<b>Innovation</b>	The creativity, resourcefulness and originality with which SEE-Change approaches its work and activities.	6.1
<b>Disseminate Information</b>	How effective SEE-Change is at promoting environmental sustainability and providing information to the Canberra community about climate change issues.	5.8
<b>Engaging/ Liaising with Community groups/ Sectors</b>	How well connected and engaged SEE-Change is with other organisations, groups and sectors of the community.	5.6
<b>Local Groups</b>	The different local SEE-Change groups,( i.e. Belconnen, Inner North, inner south, Woden), how they function, how they can be supported and how they can learn from one another.	5
<b>Volunteering/ Membership</b>	Engaging and supporting SEE-Change member participation.	4.7
<b>Facilitating Change</b>	The ability of SEE-Change to inform, influence and assist real and practical changes to reduce Canberra's ecological footprint.	4.4
<b>Targeting/ Engaging Specific Population Groups</b>	The ability of SEE-Change to gain the interest and involvement of a diverse range of people based on specific demographics such as age.	3.5

## Which out of the above activities are our priorities for future action, improvement and focus?

Participants were then asked to indicate which activities they felt were the priority activities in need of further improvement or continued focus. Participants could select three preferences. The results are summarised in the following table. A higher number of votes indicated that participants felt that this activity was a priority for future action.

Activity	Number of votes
Volunteering/ Membership	10
Facilitating Change	9
Targeting/ Engaging Specific Population Groups	8
Facilitate learning	6
Local Groups	6
Connecting People	5
Advocacy	4
Project and Program Activities	4
Innovation	4
Engaging/ Liaison with Community Groups/Sectors	3
Internal Organisation and Communication	2
SEE-Change Profile	2
Disseminate Information	1

It is interesting to note that the activities that were considered priorities for future action are also the areas which were scored the lowest in

terms of how well we felt they were currently being done. The areas which were scored as currently being done very well were subsequently not marked as priorities for future action. This shows consistency between what participants believe needs more focus and what is already being done well, and the ways in which these are prioritised.

### Improvement/Action Plans

In the last session, participants chose small groups to discuss in more depth four of the priority activities listed above:

1. Volunteering/ Membership
2. Facilitating Change
3. Targeting/ Engaging Specific Population Groups
4. Local Groups

Groups explored what needs to be done, how it can be done and how it will be monitored, measured and maintained. Summaries are provided below including a number of comments made throughout the day on each of the activities. The time available for this discussion was unfortunately limited so action plans were not always fully explored. There is therefore plenty of opportunity for more time and energy to be spent developing actions plans and exploring the other priority activities listed above.

### Priority 1: Volunteering/ Membership

- Woden – volunteers are gelling as a team as there is a dynamic plan in place to mobilise them
- Jamison/Belconnen – volunteers were respected and valued but not given enough to do and as such ran out of motivation

- A structured volunteer/membership system needs to be implemented in order to mobilise members. This is especially relevant given that not every member can attend every event. A structured system would share the load around the members and lift the burden off specific people by giving everyone a 'bite-sized' taste of SEE-Change activities.

Action Plan:

- Draft volunteer/membership participation plan
- Develop a volunteer induction/ welcome package
- Continue sending newsletters and lists of upcoming events
- Develop stickers/ name badges
- Conduct new member welcome gatherings
- Develop a summary of SEE-Change's history (part of new member package?)
- Collect and document information on member's interests, skills, preferences etc.

**Priority 2: Facilitating Change**

Vision for change: sustainable Canberra, reduce ecological footprint, build resilience

Action Plan:

- Combine resources within SEE Change groups, and other groups; collaborate, consolidate, avoid duplication
- Online forums – synergy between the forums
- Real life forums – MLAs to take up commitment, but need plans of action!
- Activism – letter writing: template/ addresses/ information; links between websites to lead to this information
- Campaigns – groups collaborate on specific campaigns; support and follow up, use connection with community
- Local Experts & Support – archive information from previous learning/ workshops etc.

A way to assess, analyse and monitor change then needs to be implemented. This would also involve strategies to maintain momentum and commitment to change.

**Priority 3: Targeting/ Engaging Specific Population Groups**

- Are we just preaching to the converted?
- Can we engage more with other sectors of the community e.g. parents and children?

Action Plan:

- Progress the proposal submitted to the ACT Department of Environment (for \$20,000) for a school competition on what will Canberra be like in 2020? What kinds of behavioural changes will be needed?
- Develop a group of volunteers to drive this – recent school leavers to make presentations in schools.

**Priority 4: Local Groups**

- Each group has different strengths and focuses

- Local groups may tackle issues at a local level in order to engage their local community, however there is also the potential for groups to work collaboratively with one another e.g. on policy submissions that affect Canberra as a whole, on SEE-Change wide policies/positions
- Is the current SEE-Change business model the most effective model for our organisation? For example, should local groups be offering a range of similar activities/focus or is the original purpose of local groups developing their own local interests still valid and important?
- There were seen to be advantages for organising local groups around Canberra's natural geographical regions.

#### Action Plan:

- Clarify more clearly the relationship between SEE-Change Inc and local groups
- Develop a document that lists what each group is focussing on
- Develop a process for local groups to communicate more effectively and collaboratively with each other (e.g. meeting of local group convenors, teleconferences, common projects)
- Reactivate, encourage and support local groups e.g. Belconnen.

#### **Gift Tax Deductibility, Constitutional Amendment and our Objects**

During the year under review, the committee has moved to register SEE-Change as a charitable body eligible for gift tax deductibility. With the assistance of a Melbourne legal firm Norton Rose, we have embarked on the necessary constitutional amendments and creation of a trust to administer tax-deductible donations and contributions. These took place at a specially convened meeting held on the annual review day in July. The process of registration is still incomplete but it is hoped that the organization will become eligible for tax deductible contributions within the coming months.

The Constitution is unchanged with respect to the objects of SEE-Change Inc which are

1. To promote processes and development of groups in local Australian communities that are broadly inclusive and open to people of all ages and from all societal groups in the local area.
2. To provide access through these processes and groups to accurate and valid information about the relationship between the environment, humans, and their health, including issues relating to ecological sustainability. This is in recognition of the fact that humans and their health are strongly connected with their environment. However, this object is in the context of a focus on the environment, rather than a focus on health issues.
3. To foster the development of supportive local networks of people that are built on respect, friendship and a shared understanding of the challenge of sustainability and the need to take democratic action to improve society in ways that are enjoyable, cross-generational and build community cohesion.
4. To encourage and support people through these groups and processes to take practical actions in their daily lives which can reduce the size of their ecological footprints.

5. To promote exchange of information on these matters across the various processes and groups.

### **Current Status of our funding relationship with the ACT Government and our employees**

We have now entered the second financial year of funding support from the ACT government. This has enabled us to provide stable employment to a part-time executive officer and a part-time administrative officer.

In the year under review, we farewelled Vanessa Morris who was our first executive officer who helped to put the organization on a stable footing. This is an appropriate occasion on which to place on record our great debt to Vanessa whose flair, innovation and deep commitment to the objects of the Association has played a key role in its early success.

We have been immensely fortunate in securing as a replacement for Vanessa, Naomi Wynd who has now been in the post for three months and is already having a significant impact on our ability to address the ambitious task we have set ourselves.

I also want to place on record our warm appreciation of the contribution made by Anne Clarke, our part time administrative officer who has kept the wheels turning, and assisted in the smooth transition from Vanessa to Naomi.

### **Membership**

SEE-Change Inc has now a little over 200 paid up members and communicates its newsletter to about 800 recipients across Canberra. Most of our activities take place under the leadership of one of the four community-based groups, which operate in different ways. That being said, we are still only impacting on a very small proportion of Canberra's residents and we are constantly seeking ways of enlarging the city's commitment to a sustainable future.

### **Solar Bulk Buy**

In the year under review, SEE-Change has again played a brokering role in an important bulk purchase of solar panels. This time, we have worked through faith groups around Canberra. One of our members, Helen Palethorpe, has been supported by a very strong committee in this endeavor. This has resulted in a number of churches installing moderate sized arrays on their roofs or their church halls and a number of their parishioners enjoying the benefits of a bulk buy. SEE-Change has simply acted as a broker to bring potential faith groups and potential suppliers of solar panels together. We held two well attended public meetings of representatives of the faith groups and the ripples of those meetings are still continuing. Several large installations are already operating on church and domestic roofs across Canberra thanks to the efforts of Helen and her committee.

### **The "Canberra Loves Forty" Project**

Early in 2010, a group of students from ANU, supported by a number of representatives of sustainability groups around Canberra including SEE-Change, began a campaign to alert Canberrans to the benefits of moving rapidly to a carbon neutral future. They seized on the ACT Legislative Assembly report of its inquiry into carbon emission targets and despite the failure of both the Copenhagen talks and the Australian Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme, began to work vigorously to ensure that the ACT Legislative Assembly report with its ambitious target would be legislated.

SEE-Change joined in this activity with enthusiasm and hosted two public fora at which Legislative Assembly members were invited to interact with the public. A vigorous letter writing and lobbying campaign was mounted, a website was initiated [www.love40percent.org](http://www.love40percent.org) and petitions were distributed widely around the community.

Recently, the ACT government announced that it would support the 40% reduction target. This is both a major accomplishment and a huge challenge. The target that will be legislated is a 40% reduction on carbon emissions, compared with the 1990 level. In fact that equates to about a 60% reduction on current levels. The SEE-Change committee strongly supports this target, which will involve Canberra in a major review of its current energy use and emissions behavior. Clearly, energy efficiency is one way to make easy gains. But the target will not be achieved without transformative change in the way Canberrans live and work.

### **Canberra Roadmap**

With passage of its targets legislation the ACT government will be committed to bending its emissions profile by the centenary year of 2013 and a 40% reduction on 1990 levels by 2020. Getting to that point will require a community wide effort and the new ACT policy document on “Weathering the Change” will be released in coming weeks.

In our Schools 2020 Vision Project, described below, SEE-Change is planning to involve as many children and their families as possible in consideration of this challenge. We are hoping to work with commercial sponsors to support symposia about different energy options open to the community in coming months and are discussing with government, ways on which our members and supporters can most effectively assist in this ambitious challenge

### **The 2020 Vision Project**

We have received a grant of \$10,000 from the ACT Government to assist in the conduct of a major project in schools and colleges across the ACT. This project aims to encourage children and young people across the ACT to develop their own vision for the ACT in 2020 that is based upon the values embedded in the Earth charter, the Australian Well-Being Manifesto, 2 documents entitled “The Great Transition” and the ACT’s Strategy for “Weathering the change. ”

It seeks to support the activities of the AuSSI schools program by providing students of all ages and their teachers with an opportunity to think positively and constructively about the year 2020 while alerting them to the kinds of values shifts that will bring a good future about. The Sustainable Schools program works with schools to educate and act for the environment with core streams of water and energy efficiency etc. Our project aims to complement these activities by offering children the opportunity to consolidate learning about future possibilities and by expressing their own imagination about what life could be like in 20920 It will encourage children and their teachers to imagine how

values and ideas might change by 2020.

We anticipate that the childrens' involvement in these issues will inevitably involve their parents as well, if they are engaged in art or ideas competitions that build upon the key documents mentioned above.

The SEE-Change team is working on three separate 30 minute "road shows" for presentation by three recent school leavers to offer to school assemblies in primary and secondary schools and colleges across the ACT. These road shows will provide the background to the four documents and outline age related art, ideas and essay competitions, all focused on the topic: "2020 vision: how will we change?" At the time of the presentations, teachers in the schools will be provided with a teacher pack that contains the four documents and describes the competitions proposed for each age group.

For example, in the under ten year group, it might be an art competition; In the fifth and sixth grade age group it could be a model or a poetry competition; In the Grade 7-9 age group it could be a group project that demonstrates an understanding of the principles of the four documents and in years 9 and 10 it could be the topic of a series of intra-school debates. In years 11 and 12 it could be an essay competition. Each school would be invited to submit one or two winning entries from their school for entry into the ACT wide competition.

Detailed planning for the project is being undertaken by a group of SEE-Change volunteers and a senior social work student on placement to SEE-Change during the latter half of 2010. A two-hour session on the project and the underlying documents will be offered to teachers as part of their ongoing professional development options. The road shows and competitions will be held during 2011 and it is expected that schools would send their winning entries for judging to an ACT wide competition and a possible festival.

The project is being managed by a group of SEE-Change volunteers, working closely with the ACT SEE-Change committee. Discussions are currently taking place with possible commercial sponsors of the project and senior curriculum officers in the Education Department.

### **Volunteering and SEE-Change**

SEE-Change depends fundamentally on voluntary activity by its members. Our paid employees are providing the infrastructure for effective voluntary effort. Both of our executive officers have been consulting with other NGOs about the way volunteers can most effectively operate on the tasks that interest them while moving the organization forward to meet its objectives.

We are currently seeking funding support for a volunteer coordinator to help make the SEE-Change volunteer role both satisfying and effective. One of our ACU interns is currently working on the volunteer plan and its early implementation.

### **Funding our future**

The SEE-Change committee has recognized that we will have a budgetary shortfall to

meet our current employment commitments in the current financial year unless we can identify new sources of funding. Furthermore, we recognize the need for a greater paid support team if we are to mount the kind of program in the ACT that will help to place Canberra on a sustainable footing. Central to our ability to attract funding from many sources is gift tax deductibility. Considerable effort has gone into moving us towards this status and I am hopeful that it will be completed soon. A strong working group has recently been convened to assist the executive officer in identifying additional funding support.

### **The balance between Groups and Canberra wide activity**

Some activities are better suited to local communities and neighborhoods while others will be Canberra wide. Our four existing community based groups are working in different ways. The vigorous Woden group is working particularly to promote ideas about sustainability and practical actions that people can take in their own homes and backyards. In addition, they hold local meetings with expert speakers to discuss these issues.

The Inner South group has concentrated in recent months on submissions to ACT government inquiries. They are taking a particularly strong interest in local planning decisions and in the role of local community councils.

The Inner North group has played a particularly important role in spring fairs and public meetings on retrofitting and food choice.

The Jamison group, which was originally the SEE-Change pacesetter has been relatively quiet during the past twelve months and is being reactivated as the Belconnen group which held its first planning meeting recently.

SEE-Change Inc. sees its role as both promoting the development of new groups and new activities across Canberra. We also see the need to link closely with the activities of other sustainability groups in Canberra. There is a desirable balance between activities run by local SEE-Change groups and activities which are available across the ACT

### **Thanks to the retiring committee and our volunteers**

I want to express my warm appreciation to the members of the retiring committee. Particularly thanks must go to our hard-working treasurer, Sue Hoffmann, our secretary Neville Hurst, and my deputy chair Nicky Grigg who have all played a very important role in the activities of the group in 2009 and 2010. The group representatives including Audrey Severino, Gillian King, Matthew Driver and Nola McKeon have also been assiduous in their contributions. I want to thank also Barbara Chevalier, Margaret Corcoran, Vanessa Whelan and Vivienne Keoh who have contributed in various important ways to the SEE-Change agenda. Barbara made a vital contribution to the organization of the annual review day.

Tom Sloan, who played a vital role in the early development of SEE-Change, and is now a third year University student has recently, with two of his student colleagues Luci Blom and Richie Southerton, undertaken an unpaid consultancy on the 2020 Vision project in colleges .

We are particularly grateful to our new newsletter editor Ellie Malbon, and to Matthew

Driver for his continuing pro bono professional contribution to the operation of our website.

Ben Lin and Chris Tia have recently also commenced a pro bono consultancy with us on our business modes and already have sharpened our awareness of ways in which we can become more efficient and effective

### **Thanks to the ACU interns**

SEE-Change would not exist had it not been for the annual attachments of interns from the community development program at the Australian Catholic University. Each year, one, two or three interns have been placed with us for a period of 500 hours of supervised training. This year we have been fortunate to have two hard-working interns, Tanya Grehan and Deirdre Thompson . They work closely with the executive officer and are supervised by two of our previous interns, Robyn MacKay and Elise Woodman. Warm thanks to all of these for their contributions to where we are today.

### **The Transform Australia Movement**

In March of this year, I was invited to participate with 60 people from around Australia for an intensive three-day design workshop to discuss what it would take to move Australia towards a viable future. The meeting was facilitated by an American Matt Taylor who is experienced in facilitating big change projects with groups like Boeing and the Pentagon.

Out of that discussion there have been several more meetings initiated by participants in that workshop and the group is slowly growing.

There is broad consensus in this group that nothing short of mindset change and transformation in the systems that drive Australian society, will put us on the path to a viable future for our descendents. The group sees its role as helping to catalyse mindset change in sufficient numbers of Australians for a tipping point in our social, economic and environmental systems to occur.

Central to the dysfunction and lack of resilience in Australia are our economic and political systems. The critical question is how do we engineer the essential mindset and system change in the face of the marked rigidities of Australia's economic and political frameworks.

The current standoff on climate change is a symptom of the problem.

The current statement of vision for a Transformed Australia is

- accepting that the well-being of all humans and the health of the planet are synonymous;
- that nature is our provider and we are its stewards;
- we acknowledge that the economy and ecology are intra-dependent
- a sustainable future for our descendents is likely.

The group sees its mission as

- transforming the mindset of Australians in order to bring about whole system change and that it will achieve this by
- providing educational opportunities for more Australians to understand systems

- thinking the reasons for system change
- the actions needed and the many levels at which change needs to happen,
- advocating for system change across all elements of Australian society,
- empowering and galvanizing Australians to create system change by developing a practical range of general and specific opportunities and projects to work on together,
- collaborating with other like-minded individuals, organizations and networks to multiply the effect of our actions and bring about change as soon as possible, and
- developing new knowledge and applying existing knowledge to inform our decisions to support our actions and guide our priorities.

Transform Australia is still a very informal ad hoc network of concerned individuals. Its draft vision, mission, values and manifesto, were carefully explored at a roundtable of senior opinion leaders in Sydney recently. That group identified four strategies that could help to bring about the engagement of as many as 2 million Australians which is seen as the “tipping point” for a national mind-shift. These four strategies included

### ***1. A coalition for a carbon price as an early step.***

There is now new political momentum for a carbon price which most observers agree to be the key to serious reduction in Australia's greenhouse emissions. Many NGO's and private interests support such a move, but forces opposed to this are well funded and organized. Building the disparate forces into a coalition that speaks with one voice wherever possible on this issue will be very important in the coming months. The pricing of carbon emissions is emblematic of the pricing of environmental externalities, which are currently ignored by the economy.

### ***2. Development of a new Australian narrative.***

Back-casting from scenarios of preferred futures offers a positive approach to the development of a new narrative that could influence the national mindset. It is a non-confronting way of engaging Australians in a consideration of the wicked problems that are threatening us. To engage thousands of people from all sectors of society in this endeavor and translate the new story to film and DVD, could contribute to widespread mindset change

### ***3. Mapping for change***

The transformative task needs to build from the diverse groups and activities for a sustainable future that are already underway in schools, NGO's, faith and community groups around the nation. The mapping of this capacity and welding it into coherent coalition for transformative change will require a combination of sophisticated IT capacity and new resources of both paid and voluntary effort. The notion of an operational TA headquarters in every Australian community created some excitement in the group. A room that is devoted to visual representation of the challenge of living sustainably with nature might be developed as TA operations rooms in every local community.

#### **4. Leadership training.**

The kind of change TA is seeking is intentional transformation. It will not occur without leaders who are committed to this change. The work that is being piloted within the current group will need to be expanded rapidly if the TA movement is to prosper. Building and expanding the curriculum to the scale and timeframe needed is a formidable task but importantly, it has begun.

#### **SEE-Change as a local agency for transformative change**

Clearly, the Transform Australia is setting a very ambitious agenda. But I put it to you that nothing less than such an agenda will provide our descendents with a sustainable future. When the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, the US transformed itself in a few weeks right across its economy, society and the way it did business. The challenges we are now facing are far greater. I sense that Australians are up to the challenge and hope that the new committee of SEE-Change Inc will agree to play its part in this agenda.

#### **Challenges for the next phase of our development**

The future evolution of SEE-Change will depend on grassroots community interest, support and action in relation to sustainability issues. Our aim is to help to transform ACT society and its ecological and carbon footprints very rapidly.

Progress in the transition to sustainability to this point has depended upon the activities of a number of highly motivated, energetic and well-informed individuals, who still constitute a relatively small proportion of the ACT population.

If the kind of change that is required is to happen, a much larger proportion of the population needs to engage with the footprint challenge. It is clear from surveys that most Canberrans now recognize the seriousness of the climate change threat. But many remain confused about the most constructive way forward.

Our aim in SEE-Change is to work with other groups to engage all residents of Canberra in an understanding of the challenges outlined above, while also promoting new opportunities for them to take action. This will necessarily mean, reaching them in their existing regional and neighbourhood networks and activities which tend to be built around schools, faith groups, clubs, sporting, hobby, entertainment and recreational groups, service clubs, U3A, and local streets and neighbourhoods.

As well as developing events and information exchange opportunities within existing local SEE-Change groups, and developing new identifiable groups in other parts of Canberra, there is also a need for this sustainability transition to be embedded into all of Canberra's networks. For this reason, SEE-Change Inc has created a new corporate category of membership, which is open to faith groups, schools, businesses, and community agencies which share the aims of SEE-Change Inc.