

MEDIA RELEASE

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Bus tour showcases local sustainability initiatives

Oamaru and the surrounding area is brimming with people dedicated to making the transition from high energy to low energy lifestyles.

They are actively preparing for the effects of climate change and the onset of the time when it will be harder to afford readily available oil and its by-products.

On the weekend of 4th and 5th of April the Natural Heritage Society (NHS) will host a bus tour of twelve such people and properties around Oamaru.

Saturday's highlights include learning how to create a highly productive organic home garden that requires an input of just half an hour per week, and putting together the ultimate set of hand tools for DIY work.

Participants will also visit an artisan basket weaver, Brydone Growers organic farm and whole foods shop and the virtually self sufficient Vinbrux family featured on *Country Calendar* in 2006.

Sunday morning's tour takes in the artists and artisans of Oamaru's historic precinct and an extended visit to the Totara Estate Harvest Home festival followed by demonstrations and discussions on water harvesting, the work of the Waitaki Resource Recovery Park and the permaculture principles behind the Oamaru community gardens.

"The bus tour is part of the Natural Heritage Society's Transition Town Project, which is committed to working with our community on a co-ordinated range of projects designed make the transition from high energy to low energy lifestyles in a positive and creative way," said Marie Grunke, Deputy Chairperson of the NHS. "Our aim is to re-localise our community, to make it vibrant, resilient and truly sustainable."

For further information please call:

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