



Zero Waste Update

August 2005 Issue 47

Mission Statement: "To encourage and motivate all sectors of New Zealand society to work towards a target of zero waste."

Funding Community Zero Waste Initiatives

Do you have a proposal for a community glass reprocessing project, or a Zero Waste Marae scheme, or a project aimed at reducing agricultural waste ?

These are just some of the priority areas for the Zero Waste New Zealand Trust's community funding this year. We have a significant amount of funding to distribute for "Growing Zero Waste Communities" and want substantial project proposals. The deadline for proposals in the first round of funding is **Friday 16 September 2005**.

The Trust is calling for funding applications from community groups and non-profit organisations for waste minimisation project proposals in the areas of;

- **Community glass reprocessing projects**
- **Marae waste minimisation projects**
- **Agricultural waste projects**
- **Zero Waste education in schools projects**
- **Community waste reduction in an urban context**

The "Growing Zero Waste Communities" project is funded by the Ministry for the Environment's Sustainable Management Fund. The project aims to support community action in the waste sector with both financial support and advice, focusing on community initiatives that will develop capacity and create employment.

The project also aims to help develop these community initiatives and activities in waste minimisation to become self-sustaining. Many community groups need assistance to develop their ideas into practical initiatives and into stand alone enterprises that can work alongside their local council.

For more details of eligible project criteria see our website at www.zerowaste.co.nz and follow the funding link from the homepage. The application process has four main steps for groups. The first is a preliminary assessment form that can be downloaded from the funding page on the website. This is completed by applicants and sent to the Trust for consideration by its funding sub-committee. If successful, the applicant will then be invited to submit a full application. Following the return of the full application, a staff member will contact the applicant and prepare an evaluation of the proposal (including measurable outcomes) for Zero Waste's trustees who will then determine whether the application will be accepted or declined. MfE is also involved in this process.

Successful applicants will be sent a contract to sign regarding their obligations, before being sent their grant cheque. This entire process may take up to three months. One of the main obligations of successful applicants is to ensure that a report is sent to the Trust six months after funding is granted. It's important that this is done, and that the Trust is kept up to date with any delays to the progress of the project.

John Ransley retires See story pages 3 & 6



Zero Waste Events Page 2

Organic Recycling Page 4



Zero Waste Update

is the newsletter of

Zero Waste New Zealand Trust

**PO Box 33 1695
Takapuna, Auckland
New Zealand**

www.zerowaste.co.nz

**CEO: Jo Knight 09 486 0736
jo@zerowaste.co.nz**

**Editor: Suzi Phillips 09 486 0738
the.editor@zerowaste.co.nz**

**Office: Hisayo Takada 09 486 0734
reception@zerowaste.co.nz**

Fax 09 489 3232

Update is printed on 100% recycled paper

Zero Waste Events

Zero Waste events are catching on in New Zealand as more event planners see the benefits of taking on the challenge. Some of the festivals and gatherings that are already planning to use Zero Waste procedures include Kaikoura's 'Seafest' in October, the Festival of Roses at Caroline Bay, Timaru in November, 'Rhythm and Vine' in Gisborne at New Year, and the 'Organic River Festival' in January near Levin. Many of the festival organisers are working with their local councils to ensure the success of their Zero Waste event. Every Zero Waste council in New Zealand, (and there are 49 of them now), could be encouraging local event planners to make their event zero waste.

As well as the obvious environmental benefits, it's a great opportunity to educate the public, including stallholders, with a practical example of minimizing waste.

Zero Waste events provide suitably labelled recycling bins for the public, often with people on site to educate the public about how to recycle.

These events also require stallholders to recycle and to use biodegradable packaging, and items such as biodegradable cups, plates and cutlery for food stalls.

Activities aimed at children, such as creating artworks from waste are another way Zero Waste events aim to educate the public about recycling.

Detailed information on how to set up a Zero Waste event is available on the Trust's website at www.zerowaste.co.nz by following the "Zero Waste Events" link on the right side of the home page.

Seafest aims for Zero Waste at Kaikoura

Kaikoura festival, 'Seafest 2005' will be aiming for 100 per cent Zero Waste this year.

Organisers are working with local company Innovative Waste, to implement a simple strategy to achieve their goal of Zero Waste, in keeping with Kaikoura's 'Green Globe 21' status.

"Last year we started on this pathway and achieved fantastic results. This year we are taking things the final steps," says Seafest marketing convenor, Neroli Gold.

Kaikoura is a leader in community sustainability and we felt it was important to educate attendees whilst helping the environment," she says.

The 11th annual Kaikoura Seafest held in the Takahanga Domain on October 1st 2005 again promises to be the fun-filled day people of all ages have come to love, says Ms Gold. It has an amazing assortment of food from the land and sea and a great selection of wine and other beverages.

A huge central marquee means revellers will be able to enjoy the day no matter what the weather.

"Seafest has become known as a festival that meets and greets the elements in style - no matter what is thrown at it," she says.

"Last year, of the 24 cubic metres of waste produced from the two day event only four cubic metres was unable to be diverted from the landfill," says John Ransley of Innovative Waste.

"This year we will just have two waste receptacles on site. One for organic material and one for non-organic. The non-organic will be sorted by our staff with the organic being mulched."

Seafest ticket sales are well ahead of this time last year with the website being a drawcard. Tickets can be purchased on-line at www.seafest.co.nz, or by phoning 08004 732 2337.

Once again the festival kick starts with the "Big Top Bash" on Friday 30 September with the main event on Saturday October 1 from 10am until 5pm. Chef demonstrations, food and beverage stalls and live entertainment – a fantastic family day.



Innovative style stamped on Kaikoura

John Ransley, one of New Zealand's most successful Zero Waste managers, steps down from the helm of Innovative Waste Kaikoura at the end of this month.

Five years ago, John was employed as manager of the then Kaikoura Wastebusters Trust. In the first year, he was instrumental in forming Innovative Waste, a joint venture between the Trust and the Kaikoura Enhancement Trust, an offshoot of the Kaikoura District Council.

John joined the Trust with a background as a mechanical engineer and then 27 years working as a cray fisherman in Kaikoura. He retired from crayfishing back in 1999, but "only lasted a couple of days" in retirement.

His achievements at Innovative Waste are many and were recognised earlier this year when he won the 'Zero Waste Co-ordinator of the Year' award.

The formation of Innovative Waste as a joint venture partnership with the Council enabled control to remain in the hands of a community trust and guaranteed it the job of minimising the town's waste, says John.

"I had retired from fishing, but soon got sick of retirement. As manager of IWK I've never worked so hard in my life, so I'm looking forward to a break," he says.

When he started work at the Trust, he had three Task Force Green workers and virtually no equipment – just a shovel, a spade and a wheelbarrow.

"We had a loose agreement to recycle some of the town's waste as it came past, but we have turned that into a sustainable company doing half a million dollars a year business, that employs 10 people with no employment subsidies."

"We've become a recognized service provider with an agreement with the Council to manage all of the waste stream," says John.

Innovative Waste now do all the recycling with a kerbside pickup for the whole district, run a resource recovery centre, operate a landfill, and manage the whole waste stream with nothing trucked out of Kaikoura.

IWK was well named as John has come up with a string of innovative ideas to deal with Kaikoura's waste. One of these was to build a horizontal composting unit to deal with the town's organic waste that makes up half of the waste stream.

"The design for the HCU was born of necessity really," he says. "We had looked at getting a vertical composting unit, but it cost \$300,000 and we had a budget of \$30,000." "We decided to build one ourselves, and to put it on its side. We built a wooden prototype which was later replaced with a concrete unit."

The HCU takes a mixture of putrescible organic waste and green waste and over the period of a month or so of turning, transforms it into a rich compost.

"We've worked on the design for the last five years, and are almost at the stage where we can take all of the town's putrescibles and compost them," he says. This is particularly important in a town where 1.4 million tourists a year have to be catered for in the restaurants and cafes. This produces a lot of organic material.

Another innovation at IWK is the use of a refuse compactor to reduce the space taken up by rubbish in the landfill. Council engineers had estimated that the landfill would last



John Ransley and Don Riesterer at IWK during the Zero Waste Conference in Kaikoura in April.

only three years, so John devised a way of extending the life of the landfill.

"We decided we needed better compaction, so we designed a rubbish baler that works like a giant wool-press. We cut cells in the landfill and place the bales there, which extended the life of the landfill by six years."

In 2002 IWK won national recognition for its work by winning the Green Ribbon Award in the caring for the urban environment section. This was for the progress IWK had made in reducing Kaikoura's landfill waste and its recycling and employment initiatives. In just two years the team had a recycling rate of 51 per cent, and was also operating glass crushing, metal recovery, and green waste composting.

At the awards, presented by Environment Minister Marion Hobbs, Mr Ransley said the win had been made possible not just by the IWK team and directors, but also a supportive community and district council.

The list of innovations continued with the establishment of a Zero Waste Academy in Kaikoura and the first practical resource recovery centre manager's course.

This was in response to the need for a course identified during a social entrepreneurs trip that John did around the country, talking to people involved in council and community waste projects. The course introduced many community groups to the skills they needed to run a business, but in recent years IWK decided to put the course on hold and concentrate on its core business.

Continued on page 6

Zero Waste Education

Places are still available on Wastebusters Canterbury Zero Waste Education Training Day, Tuesday 13 September from 10 am - 4 pm. If you are serious about reducing waste to landfill, widespread education is the key. Wastebusters Canterbury's award winning programme will make an enormous impact in your community. For more information contact mcwastebusters@clear.net.nz or ph (03) 308 9998 now.

Organic recycling best practice forum

The positive potential of organic recycling as an environmental technology is the focus of a forum in Dunedin later this month.

The forum is organised by the South Island Organic Recyclers (SORT) Training and Discussion group and is facilitated by the Zero Waste Academy.

The aim of the forum is better awareness and understanding of best practice in organic waste management for the benefit of council and community planning.

It's also an opportunity for organic recyclers and council waste managers to engage with experienced practitioners for information sharing and discussion.

The gathering in Dunedin on August 23 is sponsored by the Dunedin City Council and Delta Utilities. It's open to;

- members of community and environmental groups, so they can participate in consultation and local programme development.
- relevant council staff and business people, to gain access to best practice, the latest developments and an opportunity to engage with other expert practitioners.
- And elected councillors and community board members, to strengthen planning and governance over waste and resource management activities.

Speakers at the forum include;

- Angus Campbell, manager of the Recycled Organics Unit, which is a partnership between the University of New South Wales and the NSW government. He will be speaking across a range of

areas including ROU tools and resources, quality assurance programs and quality management systems and ways forward for grower value, agricultural demand creation, and the achievement of government objectives.

- Dr Steven Kroening /John Maskill, from Andar Holdings who will discuss research, industry experience and the technology development and trial work undertaken in association with the Rotocom composting system.
- Dr Linda Wright, who is the waste manager for Queenstown Lakes District Council and will discuss "Strategies for working with the community on the collection and processing of organic residuals."
- Dr Tim Jenkins, who is the past manager of the Biological Husbandry Unit at Lincoln University and is now a consultant in the sphere of sustainable agriculture.

For more information contact Jonathon Hannon of the Zero Waste Academy at 06-356-9166 or J.B.Hannon@massey.ac.nz

Zero Waste Website Success

Website statistics show that our website already has three times more visitors than last year. Although it has mainly New Zealand hits there are also significant numbers from America, Great Britain, Australia, Japan, Canada, India, Norway, Singapore and Malaysia.

Give your views on product stewardship

A discussion document on the issues involved with product stewardship and some of the options the government could consider was released recently by the Ministry for the Environment.

Product stewardship encourages producers, brand owners, importers and consumers to help manage the environmental effects of products throughout their life cycle.

The discussion document sets out product stewardship options to deal with wastes that are particularly hard to manage or dispose of, such as electronic waste, cars, and used oil.

The Ministry's preferred option is voluntary agreements by industry, with legislation as a backstop only if required. The final shape of any product stewardship policy and its adoption by government will be determined after consultation.

The document also proposes a water efficiency labelling scheme for whiteware, toilets and taps which - among other things - can improve water use efficiency and save energy.

"It is time to put product stewardship policy in New Zealand on a more formal footing," said Environment Minister, Marian Hobbs when she released the discussion document.

"If we are to live in a fair society and on a healthy planet, we have to get better at reducing the amount of waste we produce, as well as reusing and recycling more of it," the minister said.

"The discussion document reflects the government's commitment to sustainable development. We want to grow our economy while maintaining a healthy environment.

"Waste is a key environmental issue for New Zealand. The government's 2002 New Zealand Waste Strategy sets out a long-term vision for reducing waste, effective resource use and better management of residual waste. Product stewardship is a tool with the potential to greatly improve how we deal with waste," she said.

"Several useful industry-led product stewardship schemes already exist in New Zealand, including the 2004 New Zealand Packaging Accord aimed at reducing packaging waste and Tyre Track, which is directed at the better management of old tyres.

"The document discusses the issues involved with product stewardship. While it sets out a preferred option, the final shape of a product stewardship policy and its adoption by government will be determined after consultation."

Ms Hobbs encouraged all interested parties to comment on the proposals in the discussion document and to help the development of a product stewardship and water efficiency labelling policy for New Zealand. Consultation on the document, available at www.mfe.govt.nz, closes on 31 August 2005.

Secondary industry better option than proposed landfill

The Gisborne district does not need a proposed \$11.3 million landfill, says Zero Waste New Zealand Trust chief executive, Jo Knight.

The Gisborne District Council recently approved the purchase of the Mander Road site, saying it needed a new landfill site to secure future waste disposal in its region.

"Latest figures show that of the approximately 119,000 tonnes of waste generated in the Gisborne district last year, 86 per cent of that is diverted into recycling, recovery and reuse."

Only about 17,000 tonnes of waste went to landfill in the 2004 – 2005 year, she says.

"Gisborne is making great progress towards its goal of Zero Waste by 2015", says Ms Knight.

"The council does an excellent job of educating their ratepayers about waste as a resource, their kerbside recycling is working well, they have a good recycling infrastructure and they are well on the way to Zero Waste.

"Such small and reducing amounts of waste to landfill, make it clear that the proposed landfill is uneconomic and unnecessary," she says.

"The millions of dollars that the Council proposes to spend on a new landfill could be used to set up secondary industries, that will increase waste diversion and provide jobs", says Ms Knight.

Business bins in demand

Waitakere businesses are keener than expected on the new recycling bins.

Waitakere City Council has had to order 1500 more of the blue and yellow wheelie bins.

More than 50 per cent of businesses want a mobile recycling bin for collection of "domestic" recycling, largely generated from employee snack and meal times.

Only 25 per cent had used the much smaller crate recycling service.

The Council says businesses have said they prefer the 140L mobile recycling bins over the 45L open-top crates because they are a lot tidier and safer to use.

All Waitakere businesses were visited by the Council in May and June, and invited to take part in the new service. The additional bins will be supplied by Onyx Group Ltd, the company contracted to collect recycling and rubbish from both Waitakere and North Shore cities, at no extra cost to the Council.

In the interim Onyx will borrow bins from North Shore City, which have a surplus stored for an anticipated growth in the service. Waitakere's surplus bins have already been distributed.

Waitakere and North Shore cities anticipated that more than 15,000 tonnes of recycling (excluding paper and cardboard) would be collected every year from both regions as a result of the new service, and this figure is expected to increase by more than 200 tonnes per month within a year's time.

Waipa goes Zero Waste

Latest addition to the Zero Waste Councils in New Zealand is Waipa District Council.

The Council recently adopted a policy of Zero Waste to landfill by 2015 in its new waste management plan.

Waipa District in the North Island, has a resident population of around 40,000 people, fairly evenly mixed between urban and rural. The the main urban populations are centred in the towns of Te Awamutu, Cambridge, Pirongia and Templeview.

The district has a rich agricultural base dominated by dairy farming, sheep and beef, thoroughbred horse studs, deer farming and fruit production. The Waipa district stretches over 1447 square kilometres, from south of the Waikato district and Hamilton City councils to the Otorohanga district. Waipa District Council's waste management plan includes waste minimisation procedures and targets for all the Council's facilities and assets by December 2006; access to support from the Waikato Waste Advisory Service and reporting on the quantity they are diverting from landfill, for 50 businesses by July 2006.

The Council also aims to obtain resource consents for district landfills and close these landfills by December 2006.

Other policies include setting targets and developing a programme for diversion of construction and demolition waste by December this year, introducing a trade waste bylaw and ensure waste minimisation and management programme for trade waste permits.

The Council will also ensure all residents have access to the kerbside refuse collection service with a target of 90 per cent of residents using the recycling service and facilities by December 2008.

Shredder For Sale



German made Husmann Greenwaste Shredder. Approx. 60 m³/hour capacity, 130mm material diameter.

Very good condition, only 130 hours on the clock. Effective and affordable shredding for smaller centres.

Enquiries phone Peter 03 476 1943
mcdale@xtra.co.nz

New Manager for IWK

The new general manager of Innovative Waste Kaikoura is Ian Challenger, presently the Environmental Development Officer for Kaikoura District Council.

Ian has worked for KDC for five years, and takes up his position with IWK in September when John Ransley retires.

Ian gained a Diploma in Parks and Recreation Management from Lincoln University In 1986 and worked for Invercargill City Council, Parks Department before leaving for England in 1989 where he worked for the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV).

In 1992 he returned to New Zealand to work for Wanganui District Council, Parks Services but travelled back to England in 1996 to work for the BTCV once more.

In 2001 he decided to stay in New Zealand and gained the position of Environmental Development Officer for Kaikoura District Council, implementing the district's Green Globe 21 and Zero Waste programmes.

Ian is married to Sarah, an English woman who convinced him to return to New Zealand. They have a 2½ year old son called Jay and a six month old daughter, Abby.

New IWK General Manager Ian Challenger (at right).



John Ransley retires

Another of John's success stories has been his work with "at risk" youth in Kaikoura.

"A hard core of about half a dozen young people were causing most of the vandalism in the town, and the police response was to chase them out of town, but this was just moving the problem around," says John.

"We started our 'At Risk Youth Programme' and just through employment, paying them proper youth rates, we had some success with them. Of 11 young people through the programme, we had a 70 per cent success rate."

"We were given a piece of scrubby reserve land and developed the Trees for Travellers scheme. The young people from the youth project cut a track up the hill to the top, putting in bridges and everything to Department of Conservation standard. They did a great job.

"At the opening of the Trees for Travellers reserve, the youth team gifted the track to the community."

The youth programme is now changed to a Construction and Demolition project, aiming to "deconstruct" homes intended for demolition, and recycle the materials.

Trees for Travellers was another of John's ideas that is linked to his holistic approach to dealing with waste.

"We always thought it would get to the stage where the community cannot afford us, so we wanted ways to make money to get to Zero Waste quicker," he says.

"In this scheme we take green waste, compost it, and use it for growing native trees. The trees are sold to travelers to plant in our reserve, and each tree has a GPS position that is recorded in their name. They can access the website to find out where their tree is in the reserve.

"No matter where you are coming from, this is a gain for our community. It's a triple bottom line project because as an

Continued from page 3

environmental project it is a carbon sink, as a social project it provides employment, and as a financial project it is earning money," says John.

The latest developments at IWK includes a major \$211,000 upgrade that took three months to complete last year. The upgrade included a new hydraulic compacting baler for cardboard and plastic that has increased their capacity from one to six tonnes per day.

The recycling shed was also extended about 75 per cent with a new conveyor table for sorting plastics, and IWK bought a new weighbridge so they could change from a volume to a weight based charging system. A tractor equipped with a front end loader was also added to enable staff to move the recycling skips more efficiently.

"I'm quite happy with where we are now, as by volume we have a diversion rate of between 65 and 70 percent – almost two thirds of the way to zero waste," says John.

"We really measure success by how much we landfill, and for a community of just over 4000 people with 1.4 million visitors each year, we have done well to only landfill 1150 tonnes this year.

"Based on our population we are doing very well compared to the national average," he says. "Next year our target is 900 tonnes."

He is pleased Ian Challenger takes over his job and says Ian will bring a different set of skills to IWK, stamp his own style on the operation, and keep it moving ahead. John will keep in touch with progress at IWK as he remains on the Wastebusters Trust Board.

"It's not so much retirement as a change of direction for me," he says and he hopes to have a lot more time for fishing, sailing and blacksmithing.

Auckland Airport incinerator makes way for steam

Auckland Airport's incinerator will be replaced with a new environmentally friendly steam sterilisation unit.

The airport operates the incinerator as part of its statutory responsibility to provide a disposal facility for quarantine waste from international flights. It also provides incineration services to other users in New Zealand.

The airport company investigated options for replacing the incinerator with the more environmentally-friendly steam sterilisation and conducted an international tender for the development.

Auckland International Airport Limited (AIAL) recently signed an agreement with New Zealand company Medi-Chem Waste Services Limited to replace the airport incinerator with a state-of-the-art steam sterilisation unit.

Construction of the new sterilisation facility will start in late 2005 and will be commissioned in early to mid 2006. At that time the incineration operation will cease.

The new unit will be built on the site of the old incinerator, says AIAL general manager - engineering, Steve Reindler.

"The facility will utilise the latest steam sterilisation technology which produces zero harmful emissions to the atmosphere, in a configuration which has the potential for recycling and recovery initiatives.

"Operating in a manner that minimises the adverse impact on our local community and physical environs is one of our core values," he says.

"Medi-Chem will build, own and operate the new facility on behalf of the airport company for an initial period of 20 years."

The steam-sterilisation unit will be one of the largest of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere processing more than of 5,500 tonnes per annum. It will have considerable capacity to accommodate growth in the airport as well as servicing quarantine and medical waste markets in the upper North Island.

Medi-Chem director, Lincoln Falconer, says that this new facility would complement Medi-Chem's operations at East Tamaki.

"We have highly sophisticated plant for processing a range of hazardous waste. We want to show New Zealand businesses that many things they currently 'throw in a skip' can be recycled or more responsibly processed at reasonable cost.



The old Auckland Airport Incinerator stack.

(Photo Copyright permission Greenpeace NZ)

"With the new plant at Auckland Airport, we will also be doing our part to ensure that potential bio-security threats are managed efficiently, effectively and in an environmentally-sustainable way."

Greenpeace executive director, Margaret Crozier, said the organisation was delighted that Auckland Airport had made the move.

"The company has listened to the views of Greenpeace and local people," she said, "This is a positive step for both people and the environment."

Environmental Education Funding

There are two contestable funds for environmental education - both of which have funding rounds closing on 1 September operated by the World Wildlife Fund NZ. The **Environmental Education Action Fund** provides grants for community and school Environmental Education programmes where learners take action for the environment as part of their education experience.

Organic Gardens in Schools Fund provides small grants to schools for materials, resources, and facilitator wages for Environmental Education sustainable organic gardening programmes.

Visit the WWF website for information and application forms www.wwf.org.nz or contact Wendy Barry at WBarry@wwf.org.nz Phone 04 920 7666.

Residues to Revenues Conference 2005

12-13 October 2005 in Rotorua

Wood Management, handling and combustion technologies to improve on-site energy efficiencies and waste reduction. This event is also being held in Melbourne on the 17-18 October 2005. For further event details and how to register, please go to our website www.innovatek.co.nz or contact Brent Apthorp on +64 3 470 1904

Free cloth bag bonanza for Golden Bay

Tasman District Council and the Golden Bay Bag Ladies are the first in New Zealand to distribute free cloth shopping bags to their community.

During July the Golden Bay Bag Ladies delivered the free cloth bag to each household in Golden Bay, to encourage households to say NO to plastic shopping bags.

The 1500 households on the Refuse and Recycle Route had their bag placed in their mail box. The 200 other more remote households are able to pick their bag up from the i-Site Information Centre in Takaka, or the Post Offices in Bainham and Collingwood.

"We felt that it was important to reach all the households in Golden Bay and decided to fund the additional 200

bags ourselves, out of previous fund raising activities, to supplement the TDC initiative," says Nicola Basham, spokesperson for the Golden Bay Bag Ladies.

The bags are also a first for Golden Bay as the printed design is the prize winning entry by local artist Nikki Jimenez in the 'Bag Art' Competition held in the Bay last Easter.

The design shows that the cloth bags can be used for shopping, books or clothes. This is the latest in a series of activities by the Golden Bay Bag Ladies to increase public awareness about the wasteful use of plastic shopping bags. "The bags are a waste of ever expensive, dwindling fossil

fuels and they're often lethal to animals or marine life," says Ms Basham.

"It is shameful for communities to be stock piling the discarded plastic bags into landfills where they take hundreds of years to break down into plastic particles which then leak into the waterways and the foodchain."



Golden Bay Bag Ladies Helen Pearson (left) and Alison Ramsay distributing the free cloth bag. (Photo by Nicola Basham)

"It is fantastic that the Tasman District Council is so supportive of our campaign, and great to be able to give people a free re-usable cloth bag, so that they can have it handy for all their shopping trips," says Hazel Pearson, one of the Bag Ladies distributing the bags.

"People need time and motivation to change their current shopping habits," says Alison Ramsay, another of the Golden Bay Bag Ladies. "Our

experience is, that when a person knows the facts, has sustainable alternatives to use when they go shopping (like cloth bags, baskets or cardboard boxes), and when they realise that they can 'do their bit' for a greener, cleaner planet, then that's when they decide to refuse the plastic shopping bags offered. "Since the campaign started on 1st January this year there has been a significant reduction in the number of plastic shopping bags used in the Bay, and this initiative with our local council will really help to encourage people further," says Ms Basham.

All material in this publication is Copyright 2005.

