

Proving shopping can be plastic-free

The sunshine and allure of plastic-free wares saw locals and visitors alike flock to the Plastic-Free Festive Market Day held last Sunday at the Sustainability Centre in Oneroa.

The market was organised by the Waiheke Resources Trust in an effort to change buying behaviour over the festive season and to support local businesses, artists and not-for-profits working to reduce plastic usage and help them connect with their community.

Kristin Busher from the trust says they are not only encouraging people to rethink and reduce how much plastic they are purchasing but also to buy local, upcycle or re-gift things they no longer want or need, give experiences like movie or event tickets or make their own gifts or gift wrapping.

"As we see plastic choking our oceans and filling our landfills we also see a huge movement for change. We have great initiatives and businesses on Waiheke and we are looking forward to supporting them by putting our conscious consumer hats on this festive shopping season," Kristin says.

Stall holders included The Green Space, the Living Room, Be Vibrant and Sweets and More, all selling a collection of sustainable plastic free gift ideas ranging from beeswax food wraps and reusable cups to wooden toilet brushes, which flew out the door.

Local artist Paula Richa showcased her



A buzzing market atmosphere of trades and goodies proved fruitful. Photos Tessa Ryan

upcycled and reused fabric works of art, market regular Betty Willis was there to sell her homemade marmalades and hand knitted booties and Tanya Batt and Peter Forster, who never fail to deliver fun, sold locally grown products for a song.

The Kai Conscious Café with the help of Talking Tree Hill delivered high teas to the public in an effort to raise funds to purchase new sharp knives for the Kai Conscious Café.

The trust has one more event before closing the doors for a break on Thursday

20 December. The Kai Conscious Café is hosting a festive feast at the Sustainability Centre on Friday 14 December from 5pm. The community is invited to come cook and share a meal created from rescued food donated by local businesses.

It will be a chance to celebrate all that the cafe has achieved this year and the positive impact it has had on the environment and the community. Entry is by volunteering to help cook or donating to the Kai Conscious Café. For more information contact 372 2915 or email info@wrt.org.nz



Delicious High Teas were served as a treat for the guests.



Frida Hjelden from Greenspace.



Sustainable textile artist Paula Richa.