

# New hope for waste minimisation

Two innovative Waiheke organisations received a portion of \$476,040 as part of Auckland Council's Waste Minimisation Innovation Fund (WMIF) this month. New Hope opportunity shop was awarded \$30,426 to expand the infrastructure needed to sell recovered resources back into the community.

Manager Tania Snowden says the team is grateful for the support after spending a good chunk of time "multi-tasking at the counter between serving customers, and over coffee in the afternoons to come up with a solution to construction waste".

"With 10 years of service at the Waiheke transfer station, I experienced the dumping of good quality building materials and the frustration of our local builders due to their inability to donate these materials directly for re-purposing."

Tania says that because the material was dumped much of it was damaged in the process.

"I saw a simple solution to this problem, collecting timber directly and redirecting it for use before it reached the landfill."

Tania says the money received via the waste minimisation innovation fund will be used to purchase a flat-deck truck, signage and associated costs to retrieve the timber directly from construction sites.

The wood will then be redirected from the refuse station to the New Hope timber yard for resale into the community at a discounted price.

Tania says the opportunity shop's new location on Belgium Road in Ostend has increased customer exposure and that profits are distributed directly back into the community, with over \$1.7 million



The New Hope opportunity shop team, Steve Devereaux, Linda Matters, Juno Anderson, Tania Snowden and Emma Chloe, celebrate a \$30,426 contribution towards their zero-waste project. Photo Sophie Boladeras

donated to date.

"People who never knew we existed or what we do are now coming in and supporting our community."

Tania says the New Hope shop will be closed for three weeks over the Christmas and New Year period and will reopen on 13 January 2020.

The second Waiheke recipient to receive a grant from the waste minimisation fund was Waiheke Resources Trust. A total of \$4900 was awarded to expand the Kai Conscious Cafe project to a second site at Living Waters Church. The funding will contribute to the cost of a much-needed dishwasher for the soup kitchen in Surfdale.

Collectively, Auckland grant recipients received \$476,040 for a range of projects designed to promote waste minimisation and reduce waste going to landfill at both

local community and regional levels.

Councillor Richard Hills, chair of the Environment and Climate Change Committee, says the funding helps community groups and businesses to take new waste minimisation ideas and turn them into reality, encouraging community participation and supporting Auckland to achieve its vision of zero waste to landfill by 2040.

Parul Sood, general manager of Waste Solutions says, "It's encouraging to see so many different parts of our community wanting to promote waste minimisation and taking action to reduce the amount of waste they send to landfill."

"It's a clear demonstration of how much Aucklanders care about their environment and how committed they are to preserving it for future generations."

• Sophie Boladeras

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