

Recycling shop's free sales pitch

Waiheke's very own recycling shop is hoovering up reusable items from the council's inorganic rubbish collections.

Everything from heaters, dehumidifiers, stereos, kitchen appliances, garden appliances, washing machines and bikes in varying states of repair are being spared from landfill and made available for reuse on the island.

If that's not enough, the shop has an almost unique sales pitch: everything is free.

The free shop behind the council works depot in Tahurangi Road is run by the Island Waste Collective, a joint venture involving Waiheke Resources Trust, New Hope, and Global Action Plan Oceania (which runs Devonport's recycling centre).

The shop itself has come full circle, having started at the current site before moving further along Tahurangi Road, where items were sold at nominal cost.

Prashanti Lovegrove, the collective's waste diversion coordinator, says the current contract with Auckland Council allows it



to give away items salvaged from the inorganic collection, which runs from February to June.

"This year, we really wanted to recreate the 'free for all' idea that people on Waiheke were used to when we had kerbside collections," Prashanti says.

"We get the good stuff and all electronics are tested for safety.

"We never know what we are going to get: beautiful braziers; a gasoline lamp - it's amazing what people throw away."

Appliances such as fridges that are beyond repair are degassed and disassembled, with items such as copper sold and reusable parts salvaged. Electronic waste is sent to Auckland for recycling.

"Our guys are really good at finding parts for people to repair their lawnmowers or bikes."

The shop has passed on toasters to the Waiheke High School breakfast club programme and a chest freezer to Kai Conscious Cafe.

It does not accept donations at the gate as items are received only through inorganic collections which households can book with the council.

The collective aims to demonstrate waste minimisation and offer education and engagement around diverting inorganic waste from landfill. The shop is open from 12pm to 3pm Wednesday to Friday and from 10am to 3pm on Saturdays.

Photo: Geoff Cumming

Prashanti Lovegrove says the shop is reviving the "free for all" spirit of the old kerbside collection. Photo: Geoff Cumming

Climate change ride delayed

Palm Beach resident Robin Treadwell has had to postpone her 'eke' for climate change because of health problems. The 63-year-old was going to ride her e-bike from Waiheke to Wellington, hosting meetings along the way to inspire people to act on climate change.

Knee problems first made her delay the trip until May but, when she was

rushed to hospital with kidney stones last weekend, she decided to postpone it until after winter.

As Robin says: "I'm not really keen on riding in snow or ice."

She plans to fill the spare time attending climate change workshops in the Auckland area, while practising on her bike.



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