

Free shop diverts tonnes of waste

There's less than three weeks left to visit the country's only free shop and grab reusable goods as the island's annual inorganic collection winds down.

Island Waste Collective's inorganic reuse shop has been putting free heaters, dehumidifiers, bikes, appliances and household furniture back into circulation since booked inorganic collections started in February.

The shop is behind the council parks depot on Tahiroa Road and its final open day will be on Saturday 23 June from 10am to 3pm.

The 100 percent inorganic shop has diverted around 40 percent of all waste collected - more than double the di-

version rate of greater Auckland - says waste diversion coordinator Prashanti Lovegrove.

"So far over 10 tonnes has found its way into new homes just through the shop gate," Prashanti says.

Participation in the inorganic collection has been higher than normal, but bookings are now closed.

"We've had a very positive response from the community. Over-



Prashanti Lovegrove says residents don't have to wait until the next inorganic collection to pass goods on.

all we receive a lot of electrical items, outdoor items, old lawn mowers, old bikes, barbecues, tables chairs, other furniture items and general household stuff."

All electrical items are safety tested before being given away.

Electronic waste that can't be re-used is transferred to an e-waste recycling centre in Auckland.

Fridges are degassed and their motors removed. Whiteware has components removed before being taken to the scrap metal container at the refuse transfer station.

The collective is a joint venture between Waiheke Resources Trust, New Hope and Global Action Plan Aotearoa, which runs Devonport's recycling centre.

Under Auckland Council's incoming waste minimisation strategy, the local board and WRT hope to reinstate a full resource recovery facility on the island. For now, the free inorganic shop is the next best thing.

Andrew Walters, a director of the collective, says the service manages "the stuff that falls between the cracks - items not necessarily suitable or at the standard for an op shop to sell. But there is still a market for it if it is free.

"We will be back next financial year working alongside the inorganic collection, and we are actively exploring ways to carry on providing waste minimisation opportunities and allowing islanders to access the resources in the waste stream.

"We know it's a resource because island residents are lining up to visit us - the only free shop in New Zealand."

In the meantime Prashanti says residents don't need to wait until the next inorganic collection to pass unwanted items on.

"You can offer items for free on the Wai Trading page on Facebook, or list them in *Gulf News* under 'free stuff'. The Island Computer Guy will accept any e-waste for a small charge to ensure it will be recycled.

"When you throw something away, it doesn't really go away, it just stays around potentially poisoning our land and waterways. So please think about what you buy and what will happen to the items you throw away." • *Geoff Cumming*

Business deals.
Property developments.
Family dramas.

We've got a lawyer for that.

At Hauraki Gulf Law we specialise in commercial, property and family law. We can help you with the basics, like wills trusts and conveyancing, right up to the tricky stuff; including business sales and acquisitions, construction contracts, financing, and matrimonial property.

Whatever you're doing, you'll get expert advice from your straight-talking local legal team.

HAURAKI GULF LAW
Straight Talking Lawyers

09 372 8188 • www.hglaw.co.nz