

# Grey Lynn 2030 Trust Report

February 2017 – March 2018

## Co-Chairs' Report



## **Our Vision**

Grey Lynn 2030 is based on the international Transition Town concept. We are a participatory community organisation promoting and engaging in building neighbourhood spirit and cooperation while working towards a vision of a self –reliant, positive, resilient, vibrant, connected and sustainable community.

## **Trustees**

The current Trustees of the Grey Lynn Community Transition Trust are Colinda Rowe, Lynn Green and Brigitte Sistig.

We have had a number of resignations over the last year and we thank Chris Olson, Charlotte Gordon and Suzanne Kendrick for the enormous contributions they have made to the group over the years.

Alex Bonham brought her enthusiasm to the Trust for a short while in 2017, before pursuing her PhD, exploring the concept of a playful city. We look forward to learning about her research.

## RePurpose Community Recycling Centre

Grey Lynn 2030 has had a focus on waste reduction over the past years and has been following the Auckland Council's plans for a Resource Recovery Network in Auckland. We have been involved in various workshops held by Council at the Western Springs Community Hall with regard to plans to create a Resource Recovery Centre at this site with a keen interest to be involved with these activities.

As part of our plans to work towards this goal, we entered into a partnership with Earth Action Trust, an organisation focused on waste reduction within the migrant sector in Mt Roskill. We were granted funding from the Waste Minimisation Fund to set up a trial Resource Recovery Centre, and given a site in Onehunga. The RePurpose Community Recycling Centre was set up in June 2017 and officially opened that month. We accept and sell good condition second hand goods and have been exploring ways to upcycle and repurpose some of these goods. One way we have done this is to create gift baskets for children - these contain good condition and as-new items. We have set up a Give A Little page to help sell these - once purchased, the baskets are donated to a child from a refugee background.

So far, this trial has been a great way to learn more about what is involved in running a Resource Recovery Centre and is giving us some hands on experience. Once completed in June this year, we will be able to consolidate our experiences and learnings about the processes and procedures we have created in running the Centre and utilize these to further our plans.



## Trash to Trade

Trash to Trade is a joint initiative between Grey Lynn 2030, the Grey Lynn and Kingsland Business Associations, as well as the educational sector, with support from the Waitemata Local Board. Trash to Trade encourages social entrepreneurs and artisans alike to transform business waste into a creative, useful product, which can be made available for sale or hire. Originally conceptualized by Suzanne Kendrick, a previous GL2030 Trustee, the Trash to Trade project complements the Resource Recovery Community Recycling Centre trial by promoting up-cycling. Additionally, we are encouraging the development of a Trash to Trade businesses stream by inviting businesses to identify their waste and linking them with the wider community for upcycling, emphasizing the utilization of waste as a resource.

Trash to Trade was successfully launched at the Grey Lynn Farmers Market on 29<sup>th</sup> October last year. A video of the event was produced, which is currently helping us advertising the Trash to Trade Competition, to be held in the morning of Sunday, the 29th April, upstairs at the RSC. This show case will be featuring uniquely sourced upcycled items; winners will be announced on the day. All are welcome.





## Repair Café

Another activity that complements the RePurpose Community Recycling Centre project is the promotion of repairing items rather than discarding them and buying new.

Repair Cafés are Auckland-wide free pop up events, where people bring broken and damaged belongings and local volunteer experts sit down with them and do their best to repair them. It's all about bringing people together, connecting local people in their communities with others who are happy to share their skills and knowledge, saving people money and reducing the amount of material that ends up in landfills.

Grey Lynn 2030 has held two Repair Cafes over the last 13 months; the first one in February 2017 and recently a second one in February of this year, which was jointly run by GL2030 and Pt Chev TT.

Our first Repair Cafe, based in Grey Lynn, had 50 items brought in for repair. The second event, jointly held with Transition Town Point Chevalier at the Western Springs Community Hall, had 110 items brought in for repair. Overall, we were able to repair 65% of items at the events and in many cases the repairers were able to give advice on items that could not be repaired on the day - often these required specialist parts that we did not have available. Our two events have been very positively received, and are becoming very popular.



## Car Boot Market

Suzanne Kendrick continues to manage the Grey Lynn 2030 car boot market which has been going for close to six years, now, and is a well-established local event. Held on the last Sunday of every month in the RSC car park, the market provides a local meeting point to swap sell and recycle - the market is for second hand goods only. It is also a source of income for our organisation. Many thanks to Suzanne and Don from the RSC for keeping the market going and flourishing.





## Grey Lynn 2030 Waste Away

The Waste Away group has been actively campaigning to ban single use plastic bags for several years now, and last year we went a step further and created a platform for community groups around NZ to connect and share plans for Plastic Bag Free July. This resulted in many events taking place in Auckland and around the country and our 'Bring Your Own Bag' event in Grey Lynn, which featured Mayor Phil Goff as our key speaker, also attracted some great media coverage.

We are also actively engaging with Countdown and New World on their plans to phase out SUPBs by the end of this year - it has been great to see the momentum on this and the shift towards some real action to reduce our reliance on these items.

The group meets monthly on the third Thursday of every month and always welcomes any new members that wish to join the group. We have a stall at the Grey Lynn farmers market where we sell reusable cups, bags and honeywraps. We also sell worm farms and bokashi sets and have now introduced a special edition gift set 'Plastic Free into 2018' - Eco box and lunch box sets.

One of our projects is supporting the New Zealand branch of the international *Uplift Project*, which collects bras for women from the Pacific Islands. The Grey Lynn 2030 Waste Away group have collected 895 bras in the last 8 months at the Grey Lynn Farmers' Market. That is more than we have collected in the past 4 years. Total collected since collection started in July 2014, four years and eight months, is 1714 bras. Shout out to all those who have donated [and to Lynn who manages the collection for us!](#)



### **GL2030 Coordinator**

We were lucky enough to have secured some funding from Internal Affairs near the end of 2017 in order to hire a part time coordinator to assist with the growing number of activities that we are engaging in. Madina Knight started with Grey Lynn 2030 in February of this year and is already providing invaluable support in growing our online presence and helping us to engage more with our community.

### **GL2030 Transition Town neighbourhood networking**

One major focus for the Trust last year was to reconnect with the groups who have come out of the GL2030 Trust, in order to expand and celebrate the sense of community already established. We also reconnected with our neighbour Transition Town Point Chev, and started to build relationships with the Kingsland Business Association and the Gribblehirst Hub as well as Kelmarna Gardens.

### **Planning for 2018**

This year, we are reinstating Green Screen, which has always provided a forum for community building. Tonight is the first screening, and our intention is to run two-monthly screening events, in conjunction with community development opportunities.

We will further engage with the community by reinstating our e-newsletter, please sign up if you wish to receive this.

All our activities around waste reduction as described in the projects in this report will continue. In particular, we are still keen to engage with Auckland Council on their plans for a Resource Recovery Centre at Western Springs to see if we can have involvement with this Centre in some form or other.

We also realized that GL2030 is approaching its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. Our intention is to have a street festival in West Lynn on September 30<sup>th</sup>, with many activities happening throughout the day. If you would like to be involved in any way, please let us know.