

# A new year in second-hand clothing

This week we begin a series of four articles from Nelson writer **Elizabeth Bean** on fashion and the environment. First up she looks at the resolution to buy second hand.

I was looking for the perfect outfit to wear to a special event earlier this year and was reminded of the aphorism, "I've been shopping all my life and still have nothing to wear."

Hands up if you too have looked into your wardrobe and, despite it being full, despair that it's bereft of the ideal outfit? Is your wardrobe full of items bought because they were on sale (look at how much I saved!), or for a single special occasion and you can't bear to throw it out, hoping you'll fit it again one day.

Although often tempted to buy something new, I now resist. My wardrobe looks full, and I recently read that the average Kiwi buys a staggering 27kg of new clothes each year. Think of that as half a person's weight in new clothes annually. Also, think about happens to the 27kg we bought last year – and the year before that?

The emergence and growth of fast fashion – buying cheap



Filtering through the selection at the Hospice Shop in Bridge St.

ROBERT GREENAWAY

clothes, and binning them after one or two wears – means the fashion industry is the world's second largest polluter after the fossil fuel industry.

I decided that it would be fun to spend a year buying no new clothes.

As it is my own game, I get to set the rules and gave myself a few exceptions, namely underwear and active wear. And socks. I'm also accustomed to a bit of thrift shopping and surfing Trade Me for bargains, so I'm not new to the exercise. I'm also not a recreational shopper, so I start

with an advantage.

Fourteen weeks into this game, I will share what I have learnt. Firstly, it hasn't been hard, and I've been able to save both time and money.

A wardrobe audit identified that I already had enough clothes for summer and I forced resisted all temptations – including sales and really nice new items in my favourite shops. But the days are getting cooler and I 'need' another winter jacket, which I must acquire by sticking to my rules. Fortunately, there are plenty of shops that comply.

The answer is, of course, to buy second-hand. There are many shops in Nelson and Tasman selling pre-loved clothes. Some are for profit and others are charity or thrift shops.

The latter are known as op shops ('op' standing for opportunity, not Old Person).

I found that we have 27 op shops in Nelson Tasman Region – 13 in Nelson City alone. These shops are well-stocked and you might find a bargain – remember that one person's trash is another person's treasure.

Now a word of warning:

although I am buying second hand, it doesn't mean I will buy things I don't need, that don't fit properly, or that don't make me feel attractive.

Second-hand clothes provide me with an additional 'feel good' factor because I have potentially saved one item from going to landfill.

It is sad to realise that most of our annual average purchase of 27kg ends up in the landfill – some items having only been worn only a couple of times. Buy second hand and do your bit to help our environment.

## ADOPT ME!

**CALL NOW 547 7171**

**OPENING HOURS**  
MON - FRI 10.00AM - 5PM  
SAT & SUN 10.00AM - 1PM

**Op Shop Volunteers Required**

**NELSON**  
379 WAIMEA ROAD - NELSON

Looking for an adorable addition to your family. Come and check out our range of kittens available for adoption.

PROUDLY SPONSORED BY

**Nelson Oral Surgery**  
DENTAL IMPLANT SPECIALISTS  
37 MANUKA ST, NELSON. PH 548 0838

Holly is a 12 year old Tonkinese ready to find her new retirement home. A quiet home is preferred for this lovely girl.

PROUDLY SPONSORED BY

**Nelson Oral Surgery**  
DENTAL IMPLANT SPECIALISTS  
37 MANUKA ST, NELSON. PH 548 0838

The energetic Harry is a 11 month old Whippet X. He is eager to please and loves to play all day.

PROUDLY SPONSORED BY

**Nelson Oral Surgery**  
DENTAL IMPLANT SPECIALISTS  
37 MANUKA ST, NELSON. PH 548 0838

We have a litter of puppies looking for their forever homes. Come up and meet them. They are a Collie X mix.

[WWW.SPCA.NZ](http://WWW.SPCA.NZ) **SPCA NELSON**

PROUDLY SPONSORED BY

**DAVE HECTOR**  
ACCOUNTING GROUP LTD  
First Floor 106 Collingwood Street,  
Nelson. Ph 0800004159

Marsha has been a recent mum and now the bubs have flown coop - its time for her to relax and enjoy a new family.

PROUDLY SPONSORED BY

**RE/MAX Elite**  
ZOE GODFREY-PAYNE

Rosa and Raisin are joined at the hip. The playful couple would make a great addition to any home.

PROUDLY SPONSORED BY

**THE DOG SPA**  
NELSON

The lovely Harvey is a placid boy looking to find a home where he can be part of the family and enjoy life.

PROUDLY SPONSORED BY

**HALIFAX VETERINARY CENTRE**  
"WE TREAT YOUR PET AS IF IT WERE OUR OWN"  
205 BRIDGE STREET, NELSON PH 5483871

Just arrived - another litter of puppies. These adorable bundles will grow into fairly large dogs.

**We are in need of volunteers for our Op shops. Nelson & Richmond. If you have some spare time to give we would love to hear from you.**

Nelson SPCA Op Shop 21 Vanguard Street Phone: (03) 548 1519  
Richmond SPCA Op Shop 273 Queen Street Richmond Phone: (03) 544 5751  
(NEW) Motueka SPCA Op Shop 4A/400 High St Motueka Phone: (03) 528 5205



## JB Caravans Road Trip

Drummond & Etheridge and D&E Outdoors are teaming up for a joint JB Caravans display and John Deere lifestyle demo event near you. Come and see what all the fuss is about!

**Date: Saturday 13th April**  
**Time: 9am - 4pm**  
**Venue: D&E Yard (70 Gladstone Road, Richmond)**



**JOHN DEERE**

**NELSON**  
70 Gladstone Road,  
Richmond  
Ph: 03 543 8041

**ASHBURTON**  
153 Moore Street  
Ph: 03 307 9911

**0800 432 633 | www.dne.co.nz**