

## Sustainable Neighbourhoods Celebration

18 November 2017

Notes from upcycling discussion

**Cathy Stuart, Upcycle Newcastle** (A project of Transition Newcastle,  
<http://transitionnewcastle.org.au/>)

Thanks also to Michelle, Melanie and Uscha for attending and bringing the Circle of Waste [Community Rag Rug](#).

[Upcycling Project Ideas](#) (from meeting with Upcycle and Sustainable Neighbourhood volunteers, October 2017)

### Discussion points:

- Upcycling activities are fun and creative and have potential to reach people who may not otherwise be interested in 'sustainability' issues.
- Valuable to encourage people to choose quality over quantity. Things that may be more expensive but will last.
- Advocate to politicians and decision-making bodies to present evidence and clear point of view (eg target packaging industry, textiles industries)
- Potential venues for upcycling activities:
  - Redhead Mens Shed has 2 spare days
  - Boolaroo Womens Shed
  - High schools have wood working workshops, sewing rooms, kitchens etc
- Action ideas:
  - Upcycled fashion parade
  - Boomerang Bags making workshop. Boomerang Bags now being managed by The Canopy – upcoming workshop with Cardiff Area SNG. Note that the bags made in Lake Mac will be distributed in Lake Mac.
  - Continue and expand Bag Swap Stations. Note that training for the shop staff is important to ensure it doesn't become just a bag giveaway; that customers are offered the bags as an alternative to using plastic; and that they are encouraged to return the bags. Rathmines has also been making bags for distribution at their bag swap stations.
  - Pop up stalls - Organise a series of 'pop up' stalls at shopping centres and help people make their own reusable bags from old t-shirts.

- Upcycle 'festival' market day - Could include repair café; upcycle fashion parade, sewing bags, Upcycle Newcastle's rug, etc. Possible venues could include Performing Arts Centre in conjunction with the Warners Bay markets. Alternative venues could include Woodrising Neighbourhood Centre, Windale Gateshead Bowling Club, Heritage Shed Speers Point Park.
- [Waxed cloth food wraps](#) – Gavin (Cardiff Area SNG) would be happy to show other SN group how to make them, so that they can run their own workshops.