

Notes from a meeting with Upcycle Newcastle and Sustainable Neighbourhood volunteers, October 2017

About Upcycle Newcastle

- Grew out of Transition Newcastle, and is a way to take practical, positive action around sustainability and particularly consumption / waste issues.
- Definitely don't think of themselves as only working in Newcastle LGA, but more so around the whole lower hunter region.
- Run a range of upcycling activities - initially focused on reuse of fabric / textiles, and have also branched out into other things (eg fixing chairs / making things out of pallets)
- Focus their activities on teaching and showing people how to fix and reuse things (rather than doing it for them)
- Would be happy to train Sustainable Neighbourhood volunteers about how to run similar upcycle workshops

Ideas for collaboration

- It will be helpful for all of us to think and collaborate more regionally - among SN groups, and with other organisations like Upcycle
- Would be ideal to have a 'centre', physical location or facility, to help people connect and collaborate (eg there has been talk of a 'Newcastle Ecology Centre')
- West Wallsend District SNG have set up a Council Operating Committee to manage the old tennis courts at Holmesville. They are setting up a community garden there, and the site also includes a hall that may be suitable for pop up or workshop activities. More info here:
<http://www.sustainableneighbourhoods.org.au/holmesville-garden.html>
- **Community 'Circle of Waste' rag rug.** Upcycle Newcastle have started a community rag rug, - a rug made out of reused fabrics, and 'woven' together by community members. There's more information attached.
They are looking for community events or venues where they can bring it along and have people help continue to make it. Its a useful activity to engage with people and start conversations. Particularly in upcoming National Recycling Week, 13-19 November.
Thought that maybe the upcoming Toronto Community Picnic, and Cardiff's Car Boot Sale could be good opportunities.
> Rachele will put Cathy in touch with organisers for these two events
> Can also promote to all the SN groups to see if they have something suitable coming up.
- **Pop-up repair cafes** - Could be great to set up in shopping centres / libraries / etc, to show people how they can fix things. Nicole (Council) is keen to organise some of these in the next few months.
- **Upcycled fashion parade** and **clothes / book swap** were some additional ideas that Upcycle Newcastle has done, that Sustainable Neighbourhood Groups might be keen to do.