

# Plastic Bag Free Raglan



The Whaingaroa Environment Centre - Visit us at the Town Hall

[www.waingaroa.org.nz](http://www.waingaroa.org.nz)

[envirocentre@waingaroa.org.nz](mailto:envirocentre@waingaroa.org.nz)

(07) 825-0480

"like" us on Facebook!

## Let's do it Raglan!

Raglan has a reputation for being green, our community identifies with the ocean environment, and every year thousands of tourists are attracted to our green, ocean loving town.

Let's do our part to save the ocean and go Plastic bag Free! Plastic is a big problem for our oceans. Litter dropped on our streets washes down storm water drains and out to sea. And a lot of that litter is plastic. Plastic doesn't go away, it doesn't biodegrade. Instead it photo-degrades into smaller and smaller pieces of plastic. These are then eaten by animals like seabirds. Microscopic pieces of plastic are eaten by tiny creatures at the bottom of the food chain - and that plastic eventually makes it's way into the fish we eat.

Plastic bags are one widely used source of this pollution. In New Zealand 3-4million bags are used EVERY DAY. And around 45% of plastic manufactured does not make it to landfill or be recycled, instead it's 'lost' to the environment

Raglan's environmental care has seen a huge support in town for using less plastic. Merren Tait led the way with an inspirational Plastic Free Year (and she's now kicked the plastic habit for good). And now Whaingaroa Environment Centre and Xtreme Zero Waste are teaming up with the Raglan Chamber of Commerce to make Raglan Plastic Bag Free by 2017.

The sitting National Party MP, Barbara Kuriger, recently stated on national television (Back Benches 22nd July 2015) that she was watching progress in Raglan closely to see if this community is able to achieve plastic bag free status. We're motivated to prove to the rest of Aotearoa that communities and businesses can operate successfully without single use plastic carry bags!



And now thanks to the support of Waikato Regional Council our project is going ahead! The Regional Council's Environmental Initiatives Fund is supporting our Plastic Bag Free Raglan Project. We'll begin consulting with the community and business over the coming weeks - Watch This Space!

# PLASTIC BAG FREE

## LET'S DO OUR PART TO SAVE OUR OCEAN

### OUR GOAL: To make Raglan Plastic Bag Free by 2017!

Find out more, give feedback and show your support at:

[facebook.com/plasticbagfree.raglan](https://facebook.com/plasticbagfree.raglan)



## Zero Waste Soundsplash!

What an amazing accomplishment, the Soundsplash community of 2016 diverting 88% of the rubbish from landfill. Three great days of wind, rain and sun with great music and wonderful volunteers.

We are so proud of all the people who took the time to recycle correctly, pick up litter and put things in the correct bins. The festival goers were really conscious of the "zero waste event" message throughout the site and the grounds (even before the litter sweeps) were really clean and tidy.

Thanks to Naomi, the food vendors were only using containers, knives, forks, cups and straws that were compostable. Eleven cubic metres

of food waste and compostable packaging was collected and diverted from landfill over the weekend.

Naomi and Brian really stepped it up though by choosing reuseable cups in the bars saving time and natural resources. Reusing is way cooler than recycling!

Big thanks to Naomi and Brian for all their hard work, their efforts showed in the fantastic time that was had by the festival goers.

We are looking forward to doing it all again in 2017. Ka rawe Whaingaroa!!



Thanks to Trust Waikato and our local EnviroMatters sponsors:



Sponsors needed!  
Your logo here....