



Put YOUR TIME in the bank

A strange new currency has been cropping up in New Zealand lately – time. Following the successful launch of the nation’s first timebank in the harbour town of Lyttelton new banks have been sprouting up throughout the country.

Timebanking is a community movement where members exchange skills and knowledge for credits, which can then be traded for useful services. So a timebanker who spent an hour doing the supermarket shopping for an elderly member would earn one time credit, which could then be exchanged for another service offered by a member – say, computer repairs or language lessons.

There are now over 20 timebanks operating in New Zealand, from Dunedin to Kaitaia.

Everyone’s skills are worth the same at the timebank says Wellington co-ordinator Hannah Mackintosh – one hour equals one credit – and the upside of all the trading in cooking, photography, DIY, and bike repairs has been more community engagement and new friendships.

New members at the Wellington bank need two referees and go through a compulsory police check, says Hannah. This ensures members stay safe, as timebankers are sometimes asked into homes, though rules vary around the country. Once signed up, members log into the bank’s website which keeps track of time credits earned and jobs people need help with. www.timebank.org.nz

FILM COMPETITION GROWS

A Kiwi competition to find the best short film on sustainability has broken its record for the number of entries – attracting 191 films from around the country, a 25% increase on 2011.

The Outlook for Someday, now in its sixth year, is open to filmmakers under the age of 24. The submission deadline for entries, which must be shorter than 5 minutes, has now closed and judges have the tricky task of selecting winners. A \$30,000 prize pack is on offer,

plus the chance to be screened by TVNZ, so competition has been fierce.

“We’ll be holding a red carpet event at the Aotea Centre for the winners” said media and web manager Ilai Amir. “And we’re arranging for them all to get to Auckland. It’s become quite the keynote event.”

The award ceremony will be held early in December. Go to www.theoutlookforsomeday.net for more details.



USE IT AGAIN, SAM

Recycling Week NZ kicks off in November with events running from **November 12-17**.

A new website has been launched for the event full of hints, tips and ideas on living waste-free.

www.recycle.co.nz



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Competition closes on the 3rd February 2013