

Charity shop raises funds for Pelorus health needs

By Bill McElhinney

They knit, they sew and they staff the shop.

A group of volunteers at Havelock run a charity shop which raises funds for the Pelorus Area Health Trust.

What was once known as the Treasure Chest, the much-loved and well-used local shop, is now the Havelock Charity Shop.

The shop is staffed by volunteers who even spend their own time knitting children's garments and donating them for sale in the shop.

Shop manager Alison Walthro has also been responsible for sewing up-cycled bags out of donated quirky and fun materials.

In an effort to get rid of single-use plastic bags, Alison is hoping people will buy these fun bags to use for their shopping.

They have proved so popular that other shop volunteers are now sewing them, using donated sewing machines.

Funds raised in the shop are used to fund projects like the annual community donation scheme, which donates to emergency and medical services that benefit the local community.

"This has included the Nelson/Marlborough Helicopter, which is crucial for the people

living in remote areas of the Sounds," Trust chair Roz Freeth says.

"This year we helped local school teachers to upgrade their first aid certificates, we helped fund AED units, blood pressure units, and first aid kits for local communities which, in some cases, are accessed by boat only," Roz says.

Just recently the Trust has also provided a new bench seat outside the Havelock Medical Centre for family, friends (and dogs) to sit while they wait for patients to be seen.

The shop has now installed an eftpos machine, something that was too costly to install and run in the past, Roz says.

"But in weighing up lost sales for lack of an eftpos machine, versus the cost of having it, the trustees have made the decision to install one to make it easier for everyone.

"Locals and tourists have found items they have wanted to buy, but many have been unable to purchase as they don't carry cash, and the shop did not have an eftpos machine," Alison says.

"The town doesn't have a bank cash machine either, so many sales have been lost. Hopefully more easy sales will mean more funds available for grants."



Shop manager Alison Walthro, volunteer Josie Gill and Pelorus Area Health Trustee Noeline Bryant with the new name for the Trust's Havelock charity shop