

2023 Lake Hayes A&P show cuts waste to landfill by 55%

The Lake Hayes A&P Show is a well-loved community event that brings together families, organisations, competitors, and trade exhibitors from around the region.

In 2023, the organisers of the popular event sought to increase sustainability initiatives while decreasing the waste generated during the event. Fittingly, the 2023 Lake Hayes A&P Show theme was 'Going Waste Free', which brought the issue of waste minimisation to the forefront of people's minds and set the tone for the event.

To achieve this, they created a waste minimisation 'hub' that showcased ways to minimise waste, including composting, reducing food waste at home, and displaying eco-friendly food packaging options. The hub featured representatives who actively engaged with the public on waste minimisation topics, as well as cooking show demonstrations using leftover food.

Additionally, the organisers set up food waste collection bins throughout the event to prevent food waste ending up in landfills. The 'mug library' initiative



encouraged visitors to borrow a ceramic mug for their hot drinks, and then return it to be washed and reused. Visitors were also encouraged to bring their own reusable cups and water bottles, further reducing the use of single-use cups.

Thanks to these initiatives, the Lake Hayes A&P Show produced 580kg of waste, compared to the 2021 show that produced 1290kg total waste, reducing the total waste to landfill by 55% in 2023.

With the support of Queenstown Lakes District Council, event organisers were able to secure funding through the Waste Minimisation Community Fund to increase their waste minimisation practices and introduce better sustainable options to the event.

Lake Hayes Show Secretary Rachel Norris said that funding from the Waste Minimisation Community Fund enabled them to implement several new initiatives at the 2023 show, furthering them on their journey to becoming a waste-free event.

“These initiatives were very well supported by the local community and Show attendees which was great to see. Combining the WMCF funding with other waste minimising initiatives, we exceeded our target and managed to more than halve total waste produced from previous Show,” she said.

“For those thinking about applying for funding, it’s definitely worth getting creative with waste minimising ideas and putting a submission together. The WMCF team were so helpful by providing guidance and contacts to help the process and achieving maximum impact.”

An incredible achievement from the team and everyone involved, we cannot wait to see what they will accomplish in the years to come, while inspiring other events to include some of these ideas.

