

New local approach to tackling single use coffee cups

Did you know that every year New Zealanders throw away nearly 300 million disposable coffee cups?

The Chunky team is on a mission to reduce this and we're proud to support their endeavors through the last Waste Minimisation Community funding round. We sat down with the team to talk about their loan cup scheme.

TELL US ABOUT THE NEW VENTURE INTO LOAN CUPS AND WHAT YOU'RE HOPING TO ACHIEVE WITH THE PROJECT.

While many of us try to do the right thing, it can be easy to forget to take your own cup out with you all the time. The Chunky Loan Cup system is a not-for-profit initiative that supports cafés with free membership. It's an effort to reduce the amount of waste caused by the use of single use coffee cups.

If you're in Wānaka and want to do your bit, keep an eye out for SUCfree (single use cup) Wānaka in local participating businesses. Find out more at facebook.com/sucfreewanaka

HOW HAS THE WASTE MINIMISATION COMMUNITY FUND SUPPORTED YOUR INITIATIVE?

The grant has allowed us to hire someone to liaise with cafés and help get the system underway in Queenstown.

TALK US THROUGH HOW THE CHUNKY LOAN CUP SCHEME WORKS

Customers will pay the participating café \$10 as a refundable deposit for the use of the loan cup. The customer can then choose to bring their cup back to be used for their next coffee. They can bring their own clean cup or swap for a clean one.

Alternatively, they can bring back the cup in return for their deposit. The cups can be returned to any participating cafe, not just the cafe it came from, and we also have return points at KAPA at Queenstown Airport and Mooch in Frankton.

HOW CAN LOCAL BUSINESSES JOIN IN?

We can be contacted at info@chunky.nz We welcome local businesses who are interested in participating.

WHAT IS YOUR LONGER-TERM VISION FOR THE DISTRICTS CAFÉ CULTURE AND THE CHUNKY LOAN CUP PROJECT?

We're hoping for the widespread use of reusable cups in Queenstown. Ideally, consumers will ultimately take ownership of their own cup, and our loan cup system gives people the opportunity to make the transition happen.

If you have an awesome idea to reduce waste in the community keep an eye out for our next Waste Minimisation Community Funding round in March.

