

Brilliantly Clean Picton Project Launches on the Foreshore

A new drive for a 'Brilliantly Clean Picton' kicks off on Sunday morning 15 March on the Picton foreshore, with locals and visitors invited to a clean-up and social event, clearing rubbish from the playground to the marina.

And organisers hope the event, with free refreshments afterwards, will also encourage locals to come forward with further ideas on enhancing the town environment.

Given local pride, co-ordinator Linda Thompson expects a big turnout at 9.30am on Sunday, from school children to business owners and pensioners, to muck in and produce a pristine foreshore, as the first of several projects she has planned to beautify the town.

Ironically, she hopes this first effort won't produce huge amounts of rubbish, but expects the volunteers will fill several rubbish bags and recycle bins, going from the foreshore rose garden and playground along both the beach and grass reserve to the 'coathanger' bridge.

'The council is already putting effort into this zone, so it may prove better cared for than many places, but locals see it as the heart of Picton and central, so we thought we'd start there to get people involved.'

After that, she has identified several key places, including streets and waterways and the Victoria Domain, that need a bigger clean-up effort and hopes to build a team of volunteers going forward to create a 'Brilliantly Clean Picton'.

Linda Thompson is the leader of a project-oriented working group focused on town clean up and beautification, established by the Picton Smart & Connected Steering Group. Other Picton Smart & Connected Working Groups are focused more on strategic input and giving Picton people a voice on developments in the town, such as the Library hub, Upper High St improvements, London Quay and the foreshore.

Ms Thompson hopes to find new working group members from the Brilliantly Clean Picton event.

'It will be a fun event, a bit of a social gathering too. And if anyone wants to join the working group, we need people with community connections and ideas, who want to make a difference. We'll also have a suggestion box and ideas board, as we want the community to guide us, tell us their wishes and priorities for the enhancement of our town.'

The event will start with a briefing beside the playground on the foreshore at 9.30am, and take about an hour. She's already getting offers of council rubbish bags and recycle bins on loan, so all people need to do is turn up, preferably with gloves. A group will each be given a small area to clean up.

'It's no good just moaning about council and others needing to clean up the place – we just have to get out there and do it, and raise awareness in the community about each of us taking responsibility when they see litter.'

Anyone wanting more information or to join the Environment Picton working group can call working group leader Linda Thompson.