

Picton to Sparkle this Sunday 10th September



Yes, it's 'a load of old rubbish' – and we don't want it in our town! Picton's annual Spring Clean swings into action on the foreshore this Sunday at 9.30am – and already young and old from Picton and Waikawa are promising to get stuck in. Led by the relentlessly enthusiastic Linda Thompson, this event is in its third year and makes a real difference to the town as we go into the summer season.

It's not all work, either – after an hour and a half of cleaning out the hidden corners of town and foreshore, volunteers will gather for a prizegiving and free sausage sizzle sponsored by Fresh Choice, Mikey's Bar and others.

'It becomes a great community gathering,' says Linda (also known as Mrs Plastic-Bag-Free-Picton). It's true the Council cleans our streets and reserves and generally does a pretty good job, but rubbish gets left in bushes and grass verges, down banks, under structures, in hidden corners, on the water's edge and in the Victoria Domain.

'It's amazing how much rubbish we find, and we'll need the skip which Crafar Crouch is sponsoring for us.' The Spring Clean began two years ago out of the Picton Smart & Connected Environment Group, led by Linda. It's not just about rubbish – she's encouraging businesses and landlords to spring clean and tidy their frontages, with a lick of paint where needed.

This year, Queen Charlotte College is taking a barge out to clean up harbour beaches, and Waikawa Residents & Ratepayers are getting in behind a new territory for the Spring Clean - Waikawa Bay and Marina. Conservation Kids is also pitching in, as are Brownies and Rangers working towards their badges. And Linda is delighted that Port Marlborough is supporting it this year too.

Everyone else can meet at 9.30am on the Picton Foreshore by the playground, and choose their 'patch' – any streets and reserves from the Bluebridge terminal on the corner of Kent and Dublin St, to the entrance to Picton Marina.

At 11.30am there'll be a rubbish analysis, and prizes including the most curious find, and the winner of an online photo competition.

For updates and more info check out the Picton My Place Facebook Page or email info@pictonsmartandconnected.co.nz.