



Waiheke's Isle of Lewis connection

Tony Potter

At first glance Waiheke Island doesn't have much in common with the Isle of Lewis, in Scotland's Outer Hebrides.

For a start, Lewis – capital, Stornoway – is much bigger. It's about 80km long and about 50km across at its widest point. It also has a population of 23,000 – most of them Scots.

Waiheke – capital Onetangi? – is a mere 9324 hectares in comparison, has a permanent population of some 8000 – most of them Kiwis.

So what do we have in common?

How about a glass crusher?

All right, so ours isn't due to arrive until sometime in September, but we can dream, can't we?

Our crusher will come from the United States at a cost of \$60,000 – possibly more – and will be set up at the transfer station.

The Glass Packaging Forum has provided the cost of the machine to enable us to re-cycle our glass, rather than send it back to Auckland for the process.

The forum's general manager, John Webber, visited Waiheke last week

to look at the site, and also announce that Waste Resource Trust of Waiheke has been entered in



John Webber and Lyn Mayes

the Packaging Council's annual awards.

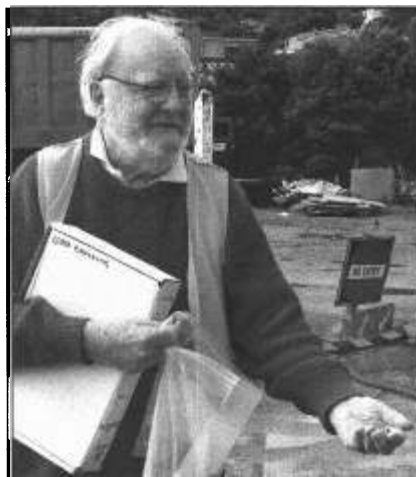
The trust, which will be operating the crusher in a research programme in conjunction with

Auckland University, has been short-listed in the environmental awards category by the council's award judges.

The Stornoway-based glass crushing plant uses American machinery and cost \$160,000.

It started operations in 2004 and should have paid for itself within a few years, according to the Western Isles Council's senior re-cycling officer, David MacLeod.

Mind you, he would say that, wouldn't he? He's Scottish.



Gordon Hodson



Wastebusters trials new use for waste glass

By Julie Hammond

There was great excitement at the Ashburton resource recovery park last Friday when a concrete truck arrived to pour a slab containing crushed glass — the prototype of possible building foundations to come.

For WasteBusters Trust manager Sheryl Stevens and her staff the project was the culmination of a long cherished dream of finding an environmentally friendly and economically sustainable way of recycling the ever-increasing mountain of clear glass at the resource recovery park.

She said local contractors had been supportive of the project, notably Fulton Hogan, which crushed the glass with a road roller, and Benchmark Homes, which built the boxing for the slab.

The test slab consisted of a layer of crushed glass topped with a layer of stones over which the concrete was poured.

Using road rollers for crushing glass was a far better option than portable glass crushing plants that

had high energy and maintenance requirements and were therefore less environmentally friendly, Ms Stevens said.

Road rollers had the added advantage of being readily available throughout the country because they were basic pieces of roading equipment.

“Rather than making another piece of equipment it’s about using what we already have in our communities.”

Mrs Stevens said that because glass created thermal mass it was envisaged that its addition to house foundations would increase the heat storage capacity of their floors.

The next step in the process would be testing by engineers to determine its strength and feasibility as an additive to building foundations.

Mrs Stevens has previously spoken out against mobile glass crushing plants citing the importation of cheap glass containers from overseas and the lack of a bottle deposit scheme as being major contributors to the glass recycling problem in this country.



Ashburton resource recovery park workers Jonny Bowman (left) and Gerry Tinning are all set to help with the pouring of the glass-containing test slab.