

Glenorchy reusable nappy bank promotes sustainability from birth

The arrival of a newborn baby into a family is a special time, and the Glenorchy Reusable Nappy Bank loves supporting local families as they welcome their newest family member into their lives.

The Glenorchy Reusable Nappy Bank is a community-driven initiative that shares a dozen reusable packs containing twenty washable nappies that can be rotated around new families within the region for years to come.

Led by Glenorchy local Michelle Green, the Nappy Bank not only provides a practical solution to waste reduction, but Michelle also educates families about the impact of disposable nappies on the environment.

“When I had my second son, we bought new reusable nappies, because they were both in diapers, but it was really expensive,” said Michelle.

“And I thought it would just be a shame if people didn’t do it because of the cost, and could we, as a small community, have a communal hub.”

The Nappy Bank received \$2,000 from the Queenstown Lakes District Council’s Waste Minimisation Community Fund, which contributed to the purchase to another eight packs of reusable nappies that will last in the community for around three years.

Families can borrow the nappy packs for as long as they need, and once they are done with them, they can return them for another family to use.



In addition to reducing waste, using reusable nappies also saves families money in the long run. While the initial cost of purchasing reusable nappies may be higher than disposable ones, the cost per use is much lower, which adds up over time.

“It’s been really fun meeting all the new families and babies,” Green says. “They’re put in contact with me, and I take them a nappy pack, and often stay for a cup of tea, and get to know them.

“We’ve also started sending out welcome baskets for newborns, so we’ll put a reusable nappy in there and some information about getting involved.”

The success of the Glenorchy reusable nappy bank has inspired other communities to create similar initiatives, modelling how local initiatives can make small yet impactful steps towards a more sustainable future. QLDC is incredibly proud to support the initiative which has helped new families and future generations in the region.

“Thank you so much for starting the reusable nappy bank. After having two kids and seeing how much waste standard nappies generate it finally gave me the motivation to switch to washables for my third. It is so easy to use and not that much extra work. I only wish I had started earlier.” *Sego, a parent from Glenorchy.*

