**Berhampore Fruit and Vege Co-op Fact Sheet (6.3.2017)**

The Berhampore Fruit and Vege Co-op was started on 14th of February 2017 by Bruce Hamill (Community Minister for Island Bay Presbyterian Church).

Bruce saw a real need for affordable fruit and vegetables while working in the tenement flats of Berhampore and realised that, in spite of a large market in Newtown on a Saturday morning, many people, who were struggling to make ends meet and spending most of their income on accommodation, found it difficult to afford to travel to the market. So why not make it easier?

The Eastern Suburbs Fruit and Vege Co-op Depot in Miramar certainly had affordable fresh produce but it was even further away than the Newtown Market.

In conversation with the Eastern Suburb’s Fruit and Vege Co-op (a joint venture of Wesley Community Trust, Regional Public Health, M.E. Transport Paremata and St Aidan’s Anglican Church) Bruce and his team from Island Bay Presbyterian Church set up the Berhampore section of the Co-op (now known as Berhampore Fruit and Vege Co-op).

Eastern Suburbs source their produce directly from the markets and truck them to Miramar every Tuesday morning at 10am. The Berhampore Co-op is able to take produce from the Miramar Hub and make three further distribution centres available in Berhampore.

Members of the Island Bay Presbyterian Church assist the Eastern Suburbs team to pack the produce on Tuesday morning and it arrives at Granville Flats Community Room (559 Adelaide Rd) at 11.30am to be picked up between 11.30am and 1pm. Between 1.30pm and 3pm the produce is at Centennial Flats Community Centre (493 Adelaide Rd) and between 4pm and 6pm final pickups can be made from Rintoul St Flats Community Room (263 Rintoul St).

Two large bags of fresh seasonal and commonly eaten fruit (3-4 varieties) and veges (3-5 varieties) cost a total of $12. Payment is either in cash on Tuesday (a week in advance) or directly to the bank account by 5pm on Thursday prior to Tuesday pick-up.

Banking and pick-up details are available on registration and it is important that those who pay online indicate their pick-up point in the bank’s ‘reference’ section to ensure the correct number of orders is collected from Miramar.

The bags also include a recipe and cooking advice for that day’s fruit and veges.

After three weeks, interest is increasing steadily. Last week there were over 30 orders and it is hard not to imagine orders topping 50 very soon. The Berhampore Fruit and Vege Co-op has a facebook page which regularly posts pictures of the produce each Tuesday and thus reminds people to pick their produce up. It also provides an easy way for feedback to be offered and questions to be answered.

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