



**CLEANER, SAFER BEACHES FOR PAIHIA**

Paihia's beaches will be looking top notch for the summer with an investment in a beach cleaning machine.

Focus Paihia, with the generous support of Pub Charities, is currently in the process of purchasing the machine, which will come from Germany.

Focus Paihia Chair, Grant Harnish said "this is an amazing opportunity for Paihia to take charge of its own beaches and to keep them clean. It was such a struggle last year with weed and debris. While the community did an amazing job pitching in to keep it clean, this beach cleaner will easily and conveniently keep our beaches in top shape all year round".

The cleaner can pick up debris as small as a cigarette butt, broken glass as well as weed and drift wood up to the size of your forearm without removing any sand. Grant said "this makes the beaches very safe for all beach goers, especially young kiddies digging in the sand. For debris larger than this we have available, through community support, a tractor with a front end loader to pick up the pieces of drift wood. The combustible debris will be transported to Gary & Di Hawkes farm for disposal. They have generously made their property available free of charge to the community of Paihia."

This machine will also be able to clean up rubbish from grassy areas, which will be particularly helpful after events or functions, such as the "It" Festival, leaving the Paihia Village Green clean and tidy.

Mayor Wayne Brown was most enthusiastic about the Paihia Community getting together to solve one of the areas major issues without expecting council to fix it for them. "This is a great example of communities and council working together to get things done. The council is right behind this project and looking forward to seeing the results in September when the Beach Cleaner arrives"

The Beach Tech Marina machine is due to arrive in September and will be operated by trained volunteers. "We are the first town in New Zealand to own our own Beach Cleaner thanks to Pub Charity" said Grant.

Meanwhile, stage two of the design campaign for Paihia is underway. Feedback from the community design process in June has been analysed and the results can be found at [www.paihianz.co.nz](http://www.paihianz.co.nz).

The Trust is now focusing on appointing a professional designer to develop some draft designs, based on community feedback over the last two years. Focus Paihia will be calling for 'expressions of interest' from designers interested in being involved in early August.

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For further details, please contact:

Grant Harnish  
Salt Air  
P.O Box 293  
Paihia 0200

Picture: A beach tech model in action.