

# Refresh Recycle Reinvent



**What first began as a way to clear out her wardrobe and reinvent herself back in 2010, has now become the greenist, funkiest preloved fashion shopping event in Newcastle three times a year.**

The event stemmed from the wardrobe of Broadmeadow mum, *Rachel Prest*, who became a fan of refreshing and recycling secondhand clothing during her less affluent times as a student.

After finishing her degree, and teaching for years, the time came for Rachel to refresh, recycle and reinvent her own life - to pursue her interests and balance her wardrobe, her home life and a job she was passionate about.

"We all have those items in our wardrobes that 'just-in-case cocktail dress' or those 'when I get back to that size again pair of jeans'. I toyed with the idea of selling on eBay or other markets, but thought it would take too much time and effort for little return. She thought "it would be awesome if we could just have one big hall set up, where people could sell their items and others could come to shop" and so *Raid My Wardrobe* was born.

With encouragement and support from her husband and friends, Rachel transformed this idea into a simple, low cost and rewarding reality. The name and branding is all her own design, she even features in the logo herself, with help from her photographer friend *Ric Woods* who insisted she come up with a logo that was small enough to look good on anything from a bumper sticker to a billboard. "I wanted something that reflected the events professionalism, but also personal enough to make you stop and think, *Hey, I could be a part of that*".

Thousands of Newcastle and Hunter women have embraced the concept. Stalls are in high demand and book out in a few weeks of opening. The event offers recycled clothing, jewellery, bags, shoes

and other accessories.

"Raid My Wardrobe is the perfect guilt-free shopping experience and the perfect way to reuse and recycle quality clothing and accessories," she said. "All tastes are catered for from chain-store chic, sleek high-end designs and quirky vintage fashions." Making it a great day out to have fun shopping, styling it up and refreshing the wardrobe.

The innovative idea, encourages women buying and selling to 'Refresh-Recycle-Reinvent' their wardrobes, "We all have beautiful, no longer worn clothing sitting in our wardrobes", said Rachel, "What better way is there to recycle and have fun in the process?"

Raid My Wardrobe events are held at the *Newcastle Basketball Stadium*, Broadmeadow and attract hundreds of women of all ages from 16yrs to 60+ and from all areas from Sydney, Central Coast, Hunter Valley and Upper Hunter to the Mid-North Coast. Past events have attracted crowds of around 600 – 800 sometimes even over 1000 have attended.

"It is great to see so many women who wouldn't normally shop at op shops embrace the *Raid My Wardrobe* concept," Rachel said, "Many women are becoming more and more environmentally conscious and socially aware of the impact of fast fashion and the fashion industry." Buying second-hand is trendily eco-friendly too; it stops perfectly wearable clothes from wasting away as landfill.

With so many women travelling to the event, Rachel has begun taking the event to other regions including Central Coast and Sydney.



Even though she is busy organising the day Rachel always manages to fit in a shop. In the last hour of the day many stalls reduce the price of their items, so while it's worthwhile to get there early to see everything on offer, coming later won't mean that you will miss out.

A directory of the stalls is uploaded to the *Raid My Wardrobe* website the week before the event that women can peruse. The stallholders spend weeks preparing their garments and stall display ready to see their preloved treasures off to a new home. Rachel said, "You don't have to spend a lot of money to get a whole new wardrobe full of beautiful clothes and accessories."

The concept of reinventing is central to *Raid My Wardrobe*, one ladies trash is another's treasure. It is the perfect way of clearing out clothes that you don't wear, while knowing they're going to a loving home. Many women who've taken the time to clear out their wardrobe for a stall, still don't want the unsold clothes, so *Raid My Wardrobe* has begun collaborating with different charities and at the end of each event the un-sold clothes are bagged up and donated. Lifeline, Vinnies, Red Cross and Samaritans have all benefited over the past two years with clothing

donations from *Raid My Wardrobe*.

*Raid My Wardrobe's* 2nd Birthday event is to be held at Newcastle Basketball Stadium, Broadmeadow on Sunday, June 3, from 10am to 1pm, the event will offer 45 stalls full of nearly-new designer and vintage garments like *Guanabana*, Lisa Ho, Sass & Bide, Morrissey, Saba, Alannah Hill, Witchery, Metalicus, Charlie Brown, Cooper Street, Kookai, Ladakh, Orotan, Mimco, Olga Berg, at bargain prices as like-minded women take the opportunity to clear out their wardrobes.

**raid my wardrobe**



**Refresh • Recycle • Reinvent**

**When:** ..... Sunday, 3rd June

**Location:** .... Newcastle Basketball Stadium, Cnr Curley Rd and Young Rd, Broadmeadow

**Times:** ..... 10am – 1pm

**Sizes:** ..... 6 – 22.

**Shoes:** ..... 5 – 11.

- Free parking, \$3 entry fee, Coffee and refreshments available.
- Cash sales only. No ATMs. Support our recycling theme by bringing your own bags.

**Website:** ..... [www.raidmywardrobe.com.au](http://www.raidmywardrobe.com.au)



*the Place where Newcastle Celebrates*



**EXCHANGE**  
HOTEL  
theoneyoulove

Beaumont Street Hamilton Bookings: 02 49611985

Website: [www.theexchangehotel.com](http://www.theexchangehotel.com)

Find us on facebook: [facebook.com/BeaumontExchangeHotel](https://facebook.com/BeaumontExchangeHotel)