



Lunchtime outing for food and fellowship

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With the help of local businesses, Disability Resource Centre Trust volunteer Ken Bousfield treats everyone in the organisation once a year, by putting together an annual DRC barbecue.

Ken, who started working at the centre two years ago, came up with the idea as he thought it would be a great way to mix together the people he works with and his friends, many of whom are business owners in the area.

The lunchtime barbecue which uses Hastings Councillor Henare O'Keefe's mobile barbecue, Tunu Tunu, is an innovative way to "get clients out and about" Ken says.

"I came up with the idea last year as I thought it would be a good way for clients to meet potential employers.

"It's also a fantastic way for the clients to meet new people and it's a fun couple of hours."

He says the number of businesses who have donated their time or resources to the barbecue has been overwhelming.

"BJ's Bakery has donated finger foods, bread rolls and sandwiches; Esk Valley Meats and the Mad Butcher have donated sausages and burger patties and RJ Flowers and Crasborns donated fruit."

Everyone was picked up from the Disability Resource Centre Trust by the Thirsty Whale

double-decker bus and taken on a tour of Twyford by driver Chris Hill.

Ken says the best part about the barbecue is that everyone is involved and helps with the preparation, cooking and serving of the food.

"They really enjoy it as it isn't a regular thing and it is so uplifting to see them get such a strong sense of freedom and joy out of it," he says.

"We had about 60 people at our last barbecue which was held at the Hansens' orchard in Twyford.

Ken, who works at the Disability Resource Centre Trust four days a week, wishes he had volunteered sooner. "I really enjoy being part of helping someone to reach their full potential," he says.