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All finance is subject to finance company approval. Credit criteria and lending conditions apply. \$43 a week is based on \$5990 over 48 months with no deposit and includes a \$375 establishment fee and a \$5 monthly admin fee. The full amount payable can be calculated by multiplying the weekly payment by 208. The inter rate for the term of the loan is fixed. Offer expires 17/06/16

The New Zealand Manuka Group is putting a call out to local people to collect seaweed.



Cash on the beach

it is virtually washing up on our beaches around New Zealand.

With a global shortage of high quality agar now making headlines worldwide, a recently re-started factory in Opotiki is reaching out to the local community to collect Pterocladia seaweed to help meet the increased customer demand.

Found washed up on rocks and beaches along the East Coast of New Zealand, the distinct red Pterocladia seaweed is the raw material which, when dried and processed,

With worldwide demand far exceeding supply, the newly-refurbished processing plant in Opotiki is calling out for people to help collect this prized natural resource before it gets washed back out to sea.

"It's all pretty exciting what's going on here," says Kath Coopey, technical adviser at New Zealand Manuka Group.

"Our Opotiki plant has undergone a complete revamp and is now producing high-grade pharmaceutical agar."

New Zealand Manuka Group purchased the old Coast Biologicals factory in Opotiki in 2011. After investing heavily in scientific resources, pharmaceutical grade facilities and modern production systems, the upgrades have positioned the seaweed business as a world-class

processor and innovator of agar products. Company founder Phil Caskey says the

THEY say money doesn't grow on trees but business is continuing to invest in new technologies, intellectual property and processing methods to add value to this natural resource.

"We are actively looking at new products for other types of seaweed in the future,

Agar is an incredibly useful and important ingredient for the food industry as well as a wide range of industrial applications such as pharmaceutical products, medical research, dental prosthetics and biotechnology.

Pollution and environmental conditions have impacted supply and product quality from some countries. However it is the global demand from foodmakers, at several thousand tonnes annually, which is putting the biggest pressure on suppliers.

Coopey is asking people on the East Coast to help collect the red Pterocladia seaweed and says it is an opportunity for the wider community as well.

"It's a great way to earn some extra money or raise funds for your sports team or school.'

Anyone interested in taking part in a beach collection needs to contact New Zealand Manuka Group. Collectors information will be added to their permit and further details about collecting red seaweed will also be provided.

BUSINESS FEATURE



Pterocladia (Agar) Seaweed **Collectors Wanted**

If you are interested in collecting and supplying Pterocladia Seaweed from your local beach, please call us now for supplier packs and information. Earn \$3.00-\$3.40 per kg for clean and dried Pterocladia Seaweed.

For more information and Fishserve permit required for collection, please call us at New Zealand Seaweeds on 07 315 7663.

