

Second-hand love

These days, more young people are going for pre-loved items.

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FOR several years now, 25-year-old Hazdiana Ibrahim has been purchasing 60% of what makes up her wardrobe at second-hand stores and sales.

"The first reason I buy second-hand is, the price, and second, the sentimental value behind it," says Hazdiana, who is a model.

Since then, she has been gathering friends and set up Threadzoo, a cosy gathering where people can come and look for almost brand-new and second-hand items. In fact, in the short time since it was inception, Threadzoo has grown from seven to 50 vendors plying their stuff.

"The idea is to get people to sell their pre-loved stuff, accidental purchases, furniture or anything you cant think of to be sold at a very cosy meet up," says Hazdiana.

Hundreds showed up at their most recent event, held at Mist Club in Bangsar, Kuala Lumpur, and vendors sold off clothes, bags, shoes, accessories, books and CDs.

"Most people buy dresses, bags and accessories. Quite a number of tops too but it's hard to find one that totally suits you, so you either you have to alter or be creative about it," says Hazdiana.

Coming up next on Hazdiana's agenda is The No Plastic Bag Bazaar by Threadzoo and The Recyclists on Merdeka Day.

Sharing in the upcoming project is another flea market junkie and second-hand collector, Janet Lee, who has been buying second-hand for 10 years.

"It started as the most natural thing to do –



At Threadzoo sales, hundreds turn up to buy clothes, bags and accessories.

someone is selling old stuff, cheap and unique, so why not shop there?" says Janet.

The event on Aug 31 will target urbanites of KL to come together for what Janet calls "our national hobby" – shopping.

"The Recyclists organise an event every year – this year The No Plastic Bag Bazaar aims at raising awareness on the impact of over-usage of plastic and to collect funds for the Malaysian Nature Society and Furry Friends Farm."

Some of Janet and Hazdiana's friends are also into buying second-hand, and frequent flea markets and blogs to pick up vintage items.

One of them is music enthusiast, Emmet,

who sells clothes and vinyl records on his blog emmetgaragesales.blogspot.com.

"The most common reason why people are reluctant to buy second-hand is hygiene. To them, used means dirty and dirty means exposing the wearer to sickness," says Emmet, whose wardrobe consist of about 60% second-hand vintage items.

He has friends all over the world who buy second-hand, and his friends actually swap pre-loved items with one another and buy one another items they think their friends will like.

"First and foremost, it should be love at the first sight (when purchasing second-hand items). For me, it's five things; jeans, vinyls, T-shirts, magazines and car parts."

He also modifies pre-loved T-shirts, turning them into tote bags and messenger bags.

So, what's the appeal of pre-loved items for these three?

"Definitely the uniqueness of the item and it's pricing," says Janet. "Knowing you are paying a good price for something that you like and that is in decent condition. For vintage shopping, you know the item is out of production now and can be assured that you won't run into someone wearing the same thing next week."

Hazdiana thinks that in these bad times, people might be more willing to spend money on second-hand clothes and items.

"Clothes are getting ridiculously pricey and you just want to be in fashion!" she says.

So, for more second-hand goodness, head to The No Plastic Bag Bazaar, happening on Aug 31 at Noble House, Jalan Bukit Bintang in KL, from noon to 6pm.

Apart from the second-hand items sale, there will also be auctions by celebrities and artistes, a pet adoption drive and raffle draws.

For more information on the event, go to <http://thethreadzoo.blogspot.com> or <http://therecyclists.blogspot.com>.



Hazdiana Ibrahim (right) has been running Threadzoo for two years now.



Janet Lee of The Recyclists with an item she picked up at a second hand sale.



Serena C (left) recently organised an auction of celebrities' pre-loved items, to raise funds for charity.



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and many more came out on a Sunday to auction off their "almost-brand-new" clothes, accessories, bags and other things.

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