

FASHION

MARKET DRIVEN

Driving down Oxford Street about a year ago, Katrina Thomson got to thinking that Leederville would be the perfect place for an outdoor market.

"Rather than wait and hope for that to happen, I began to scout the area for the right location," she recalls of a thought that turned to fruition a fortnight ago when the Oxford Street Market opened in Leederville.

It was a case of simple patience and determination while waiting for the approval process to go through, but in that time Thomson returned to her native Canada, where she participated in a weekend summer market.

Now summer's here and the time is right... for a market on Oxford Street.

"It has been the most rewarding project I have ever worked on," Thomson says. "I'm very happy to be directing my efforts towards bringing more to our community."

Having scouted intently for vendors, there's a pleasingly wide variety of stalls at the market. The door is open for more...

"Now that the word is spreading, people are coming to me to find out how they can exhibit," Thomson says. "I am always looking for new vendors, and welcome all enquiries."

"There is currently a wonderful variety of exhibitors from local fashion, jewellery, children's and home decor designers, makers of natural beauty products, to artists, collectors of vintage and antiques, and international fair trade imports. We have a wonderful range of

products at the market, and I'm looking forward to a continual variety which will be featured in the weeks to come."

Thomson says that the local community and businesses have been very supportive about the addition of the market to the Leederville streetscape, and even more so since it opened.

"I envisage with a successful first season that the market will become a featured part of Oxford Street," she says. "For me the market is about creating a space where local designers and artists have a space to exhibit their work regularly. There are many talented individuals here in WA, and I hope they see this market as an opportunity to represent their collections and develop their own businesses further. I see the market as one which will become more of a boutique market, where you will be able to find the best that WA has to offer in fashion, accessories and home decor."

With the New Year around the corner, Thomson is looking positively forward. By the time the outdoor market wraps up on March 28 she hopes to find an indoor location for autumn, winter and spring.

"I hope that the Town of Vincent continues to support the Oxford St Market," she says, "and that we will be granted to use the park at 100 Oxford Street as the summer season location for many years to come."

For more details head to www.oxfordstmarket.com.au but be sure to actually leg it on down there too, won't you?

— BOB GORDON



Oxford Street Market