

No end to long list of crimes

Terence James Baker has hundreds of convictions, but he has set a new low with his latest guilty pleas.

The 59-year-old has admitted abusing passers-by in central Christchurch, stealing from a busker and assaulting a blind man.

Baker is a regular attendee at the courthouse where a judge once commented that it was necessary to cut down a forest every time the police had to print out his criminal record.

On Thursday, he was back in court for four offences committed this week: breach of the inner city liquor ban, assault, theft and disorderly behaviour, Christchurch Court News website reported.

Police prosecutor Anselm Williams said Baker had been in Chancery Lane, which runs to Cathedral Square, at a busy time on Tuesday afternoon, being aggressive and abusing passing pedestrians.

Later that day, he went to a busker on the corner of Cashel and High streets, in the City Mall, and became aggressive and threatening.

He then he took \$2 from the performer's hat.

On Wednesday, he approached a blind man who spends the day busking in Cathedral Square.

The men knew each other, and Baker regularly tries to obtain money from the performer.

Baker asked the man for \$3.50 which he said he had previously given him.

When the man refused, Baker grabbed him by the shoulders and shook and pushed him before swearing and biking away.

He was found with a bottle of drink.

"Anybody steals from me, I steal from them," Baker proclaimed from the dock yesterday.

Defence counsel Lee-Lee Heah said Baker was prepared to pay a fine for the continued nuisance offending.

Judge Raoul Neave fined him \$200 on each charge. NZPA



Hot couture: Anthea Struthers, left, and Kris Herbert are among the organisers of Swap-O-Rama-Rama, a secondhand clothing swap meet, to be held today in Lyttelton.

Photo: DEAN KOZANIC

New life for old clothes

Beck Eleven

Clever Kiwi fashion hunters will find treasure in other people's trash as they turn unloved clothing into pre-loved couture.

Swap-O-Rama-Rama, a secondhand clothing swap meet, will be held today as one of the opening events of the 10-day Lyttelton Summer Festival.

It is the first Swap-O-Rama-Rama to be held in New Zealand since the concept was launched by New York artist Wendy Tremayne in 1994.

The idea is to lighten the environmental impact caused by the textile industry by recycling unwanted clothing.

Clothing swappers must bring a bag of clothes and \$10 for entry. They will then be allowed to rummage through

other people's cast-offs, with no limit on what they can take away.

The event runs from 11am to 4pm at the Lyttelton Recreation Centre.

Volunteers will help punters alter and customise their newly acquired items.

Co-organiser Kris Herbert said the volunteers would advise on pulling sleeves off a jumper to create leg warmers, converting a skirt into a handbag or a T-shirt into a dress.

In keeping with Tremayne's philosophy of bringing a community together – no mirrors will be allowed in the recreation centre so people must rely on the opinion of other swappers.

The event also includes hourly do-it-yourself

workshops, a fashion show, music and food.

Volunteer Anthea Struthers, who has been a fashion stylist in Australia and America, said budding fashionistas needed a shot of "bravery" to create clothing from secondhand items.

"It's showing people a little bit of alteration is easy to do," she said.

The Lyttelton Summer Festival grew from the one-day street party which has been held in the porttown for the past five years.

The festival opened last night with a photography exhibition and closes next weekend with an all-day street party and school fair.

☐ For more information visit: www.lyttelton.net.nz/summer