

ben & bear

Ben & Bear Eco Friendly Handbags is the brainchild of Raewyn du Toit, a South African designer now based in Phuket, whose work reflects her roots, her travels and a heightened awareness of the environmental issues that are challenging our world. Her designs are distinctive, beautifully crafted, and, above all, eco-friendly.

African community crafts and brightly coloured tribal textiles are constant inspirations. But Raewyn's earliest and most enduring influences were drawn from the Basotho people, whose traditional way of life is in harmony with nature and at one with the earth, and drawing their artistic inspiration from what was in their environment.

Her vision is that nothing be wasted; rather we endeavour to recycle and turn old items into something new. She has incorporated her inspiration, vision and principles into creating eye-catching, eco-friendly handbags. Each one is distinctively created from old inner tubes of tyres (surprisingly soft!), second-hand clothing for decoration and old belts as straps, totally revitalising and transforming the materials into something unique.

As each bag is a one-off, you'll never meet someone else carrying the same design. And, although environmentally friendly, these striking bags are stylish with a great sense of fun, in both conservative and funky designs.

Prices range from \$65 to \$230. Available at Quintessential in Pacific Plaza, Level 2, 9 Scotts Road. www.benandbear.com



Sling bag \$180



Messenger/computer bag \$230, includes a computer sleeve



Shoulder bag \$180



Shoulder bag \$180



Computer sleeve US\$65, only available direct from Ben & Bear