

# Looking after our environment

## Word Find

Have a go at completing the Word Find and see how many words you can find.

F U T U R E G S E L T T O B R  
 A E S V A S R G N N D A S T O  
 F T O U E E E M E O N N K H A  
 S S P J F X E M A L A S K O D  
 Y A M P I G N I L C Y C E R S  
 F W O X L O W U C J M I A T I  
 U E C K R A A Z U X L N C Y D  
 L Y R I S U S T A I N A B L E  
 U L V T P S T T S E R G S M B  
 C N I A I Y E T I D C R N E F  
 E L P F K L I P B C D O A T J  
 C E E P D B I O O D S C V A U  
 R Q W A B N A S G R H Q U L O  
 Z J F A N R A V E E S T S E P  
 X T R U D B P L S R R G B N G

- |           |             |           |             |
|-----------|-------------|-----------|-------------|
| BEACHES   | ENVIRONMENT | ORGANICS  | ROAD SIDE   |
| BOTTLES   | FERTILISER  | PAPER     | ROPES       |
| CANS      | FUTURE      | PESTS     | SUSTAINABLE |
| CARDBOARD | GREEN WASTE | PLASTICS  | WASTE       |
| CLEAN     | LANDFILL    | RABBITS   |             |
| COMPOST   | METAL       | RECYCLING |             |



UNIQUELY

# Chatham

Issue 26 June 2015

Welcome to the first kids' issue of Uniquely Chatham. Everyone can play a part in protecting the environment and helping to reduce the impact of humans, even if it is just a little thing like recycling or helping with an island clean-up.

## Why can't I have a rabbit?

One question Chatham Islands children might want to know is why they are not allowed some pets like their mainland friends and family.

Kerri Moir from Environment Canterbury explains why rabbits are not welcome on the islands.

Rabbits are small mammals with fluffy short tails, whiskers and long ears, who wouldn't want one.

Introduced to New Zealand in the late 17th century, the females are called doe and the males are bucks.

Rabbits are nocturnal coming out of their burrows normally at dawn and dusk.

They can have 20-40 babies a year, and live for 10 years so that's around 400 babies for one female rabbit. The young can take care of themselves from about four weeks of age and between two to three months old can start having babies of their own.

Rabbits mainly eat grasses, clover and bark which mean they compete with livestock for food, on average 7-10 rabbits can eat as much as one ewe. They will eat their own poo as they don't get a lot of goodness out of their diet.

If there is a shortage of natural predators in an area it can become over run very quickly. In large numbers they can cause a lot of damage to the environment and cost to control them can be very high.

While most people think rabbits are about the same size as their pet cat some can be as small as 20cm long and weigh less than a block of butter. The largest rabbit recorded was 129.54cm and weighed in at 22kg.



Bunnies may make cute pets but are also pests



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# How to make compost

Nature's way of recycling is by making compost with garden waste and scraps of fruit and vegetables. Compost creates an ongoing supply of organic fertiliser that's packed with nutrients and will help your plants to grow.

It's easy to make your own compost bin by using an open bottom plastic bin, a multi-layered plastic bin, a tumbler/rotating bin, or just start a heap straight onto the ground, depending on how much waste you produce,

Choose a well-drained site away from the house. It needs to be sheltered from wind and extreme heat. A compost bin needs plenty of drainage through the bottom and adequate ventilation through the sides and should be able to be covered

Once you've decided where you're going to make your compost, it's time to get started. Add your organic material in layers to create a balance of carbon and nitrogen. Start with a layer of carbon – your brown material: dried leaves, twigs, pea straw, newspaper etc. Next add a nitrogen layer – your green material: plant trimmings, grass clippings, anything green and leafy.

Adding a product like lime to each layer as you prepare your heap will accelerate the composting and help neutralise acidity and has the added bonus of helping to keep flies away.

Keep adding alternate layers, then add water and cover the heap to enable it to decompose quickly. Compost needs to be turned regularly to aerate and help the decomposition process.

### Quick hint

Chop up your waste to help it decompose quicker. With bigger pieces of plant trimmings for example, just spread them on the lawn and run over them with the lawnmower before you add to your compost, but don't overdo it. With larger branches your lawnmower won't cope.

### What doesn't go into compost

Plastic, chemicals, diseased plants and trimmings, animal waste – it contains harmful bacteria and viruses which will infect the soil.

# Caring for our environment

Last October the Chatham Community Focus Trust organised a clean-of some of the main roads heading into Waitangi and out to the coast – a simple way of caring for the local environment and removing any rubbish off the road sides.

And in February the Chatham Islands Shipping Company arranged a beach clean-up as part of Seaweed 2015 with the theme of 'Look beneath the surface – Papatai ō roto – Papatai ō raro'.

It was great to see so many children giving back to the beautiful beaches they enjoy by removing any unwanted items.

Rope was the most found item while the number of plastic bags and wrap decreased significantly since 2014 – hopefully everyone is becoming more aware of recycling and re-using their plastic bags.

- Manaaki whenua, Care for the land
- Manaaki moana, Care for the sea
- Manaaki tangata, Care for the people
- Haere whakamua, Go forward.



Devlin on his second day trash busting he brought in the largest load off the Waitangi Beach

# It's all rubbish

The Chatham Islands Council has a Waste Management plan which looks at how they can help islanders to reduce the amount of rubbish and what can be sent to the mainland for disposal.

These are the types of waste that will be accepted at the new transfer stations once they are open:

- Household refuse is baled for disposal in the landfill
- Aluminium cans
- Plastics
- Organics/green-waste (see how to make compost)
- Glass bottles
- Scrap metal
- Cardboard
- Hazardous waste



### What are the future plans for the waste?

- Domestic waste is baled for disposal in the landfill
- Diverted material (eg aluminium cans, plastics, organics, bottles, scrap metal and cardboard) are sorted
- Recyclable resources are exported to NZ markets
- Hazardous waste is exported to the mainland for safe disposal

**Waste management update:** The Kaingaroa Transfer Station is being constructed while the sanitary landfill and transfer stations based in Owenga and Te One will be operational once the Chatham Islands Resource Recovery Centre is completed.

**A sustainable future for our people and our islands.**



The new Kaingaroa Transfer Station



The old Kaingaroa landfill



Jesse and Sofie with their rubbish



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*Chathams*

**The Chatham Islands: A community that protects, sustains, enriches and values our environment, our cultural heritage and our uniqueness.**