

Puketapu Kindergarten



About Puketapu Kindergarten

Puketapu Kindergarten in Bell Block is attended by 60 children and has a staff of five, four teachers and an administrator.

What used to happen

The kindergarten generated two 240-litre bins of waste to landfill each week. There was no recycling, and no organic waste was composted.

What changes were made

An Environmental Education Awareness programme was developed, which quickly generated action to reduce, re-use and recycle. Waste minimisation is now part of the everyday programme and as well as a focus on recycling, there are five compost bins and five worm farms, the products of which are used in flower and vegetable gardens.

The outcome

The kindergarten has halved its waste to landfill, from two to one 240-litre bin a week. It is also filling one 240-litre bin of recyclables each week, when previously there was no recycling. Some seven litres of organic material is also used in compost or worm farms, instead of being sent to landfill - and is being turned into income, with wormcasts and worm juice sold from a stall at the gate.

Other initiatives have included leaf collections, pest management activities and can collections. The children are also encouraged to consider how healthy their lunches are, and to cut down on packaging.