

ENVIRONMENT

Our Environment

Christchurch City Council's Environmental Newsletter

CITY COUNCIL ADJUSTS SPENDING TO PAY FOR BIG BUDGET PROJECTS

Spending has been pruned over the next four years as the City Council prepares for spiralling operating costs associated with three major projects – the wastewater plant upgrade, new art gallery and proposed landfill.

The Bromley wastewater treatment plant

upgrade and expansion, due to be completed in three years, will have cost a total of \$70.6 million. The Christchurch Art Gallery scheduled to open next April will cost \$42.9 million, and the Council's share of the proposed

to P2 



CHANGE OF DIRECTION

This is the last issue of *Our Environment* under its current banner. The Spring issue will feature a new look as the Environmental newsletter for Our City O-Tautahi. While much of the familiar content will remain the newsletter will feature articles and updates of the programmes at Our City.

The Our City O-Tautahi project has been established in the former Municipal Chambers, corner of Oxford



our City
O-Tautahi

past
present
future

Terrace and Worcester Street. It will bring together in one accessible place, the public, the Christchurch City Council, Environment

Canterbury, tangata whenua, interested professionals, developers and investors, and community/residents groups, to exhibit, present and exchange ideas and knowledge about the City and important development, planning and environmental issues.

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CHRISTCHURCH

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Printed on Works 80gsm 100% recycled paper.

This publication is produced by the Policy Directorate.

Web page address for past issues:
<http://www.ccc.govt.nz/ourenvironment>

For further information or submission of articles or illustrations please contact Kerry Everingham, Education and Promotion

Co-ordinator

Ph: (03) 941 8779

kerry.everingham@ccc.govt.nz

North Canterbury landfill and associated refuse station modifications \$12.3 million.

Financial planning is further complicated by the Environment Court's decision that the Council cannot discharge water into the estuary after five years. That could mean further huge costs if a \$30 million plus ocean outfall is required in the short term.

The Council aims to reduce its operations budget by \$10 million by 2005/6 through cost reductions and revenue increases. Councillors have also decided to decline all new grant applications from religious, welfare, community, cultural and sporting organisations.

However, many new projects will still proceed as planned. Over the next few years \$4.3 million has been earmarked for the new South of the City Library and Service Centre, \$2.5 million for the Upper Riccarton Library, a \$5.9 million compost plant and \$9 million for the purchase of strategic neighbourhood and district sports parks and reserves. The Blenheim Road Deviation is expected to cost \$6 million in 2003/04, the Ferrymead Bridge and Ferry Rd/Humphreys drive intersection change \$5.16 million, and \$10.7 million has been allocated for additional office accommodation.

After further fine tuning by the Annual Plan Subcommittee in July, the Council also budgeted for \$3 million over two years for public boating facilities at Lyttelton, \$505,000 this year on first hour free parking to boost the Central City, and up to \$250,000 for a new garden festival to enhance Christchurch's garden city image.

It approved an extra \$346,000 towards foundation costs associated with Tamaki Tours' establishment of a pre-European village on a former landfill site at Ferrymead. The Cathedral of

the Blessed Sacrament will also receive a \$140,000 grant per annum for five years for earthquake strengthening.

The Council decided that Christchurch residents should pay for their rubbish bags from 2004/5 under a new waster pays regime. Most councillors agreed this would reduce the amount of waste sent to the landfill. It would also reduce the projected rate rise

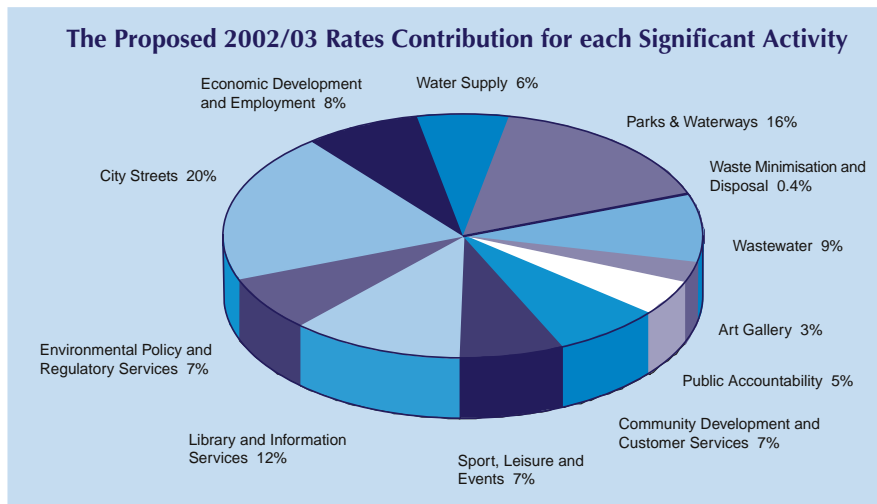
in that year from just over 7 per cent to under 4 per cent.

The Councils total rate requirement in 2002/03 financial year is \$145.51 million (reduced from \$177.92 million by dividends from its trading enterprises). The lion's share of the \$177.92 million goes to city streets with 19.7 per cent or \$35.04 million. Parks and waterways receive 16.1 per cent (\$28.65 million) and

library and information services 11.6 per cent (\$20.73 million). Spending in other areas is: wastewater 8.8 per cent (\$15.7 million), economic development and employment 7.9 per cent (\$14.11 million), environment policy and regulatory services 7.4 per cent (\$13.16 million), sports, leisure and events 7.3 per cent (\$12.95 million), and community development and customer services 7.2 per cent (\$12.83 million). Water supply accounts for 5.9 per cent (\$10.54 million) of overall spending, the art gallery 2.8 per cent (\$4.94 million) and waste minimisation and disposal 0.4 per cent (\$750,000).

The approved spending plan represents an average rise of 3.7 per cent this financial year – a 4.20 per cent rise for the residential sector, a 1.92 per cent increase for the commercial-industrial sector, 11.76 per cent rise for the rural sector, and a 3.43 per cent rise for the institutions sector.

Jennie Hamilton



NORTHERN RATA A FEATURE OF INNER CITY

The imposing northern rata flanking the Hereford Street bridge was donated and planted in 1898 by noted New Zealand botanist Leonard Cockayne.

The founding secretary of the Christchurch Beautifying Association was intent on enhancing the city's waste spaces. Many of the trees and plants he grew on his Tarata Experimental Garden near New Brighton were replanted around the city.

Leonard Cockayne was keen to see New Zealand native plants in school and home gardens. The northern rata he planted on Mill Island is now the largest specimen in Christchurch. Aply called *Metrosideros robusta* it grows



to about 30 metres and is one of New Zealand's largest flowering trees.

However, this particular example is a rather shy advertisement for Project Crimson, set up by Carter Holt Harvey and the Department of Conservation in 1990 to restore ratas and pohutakawas ravaged by possums. Although seemingly reluctant to reveal its true colours, its dense green foliage still sets it apart from neighbouring trees in the inner city.

For information about other Christchurch trees visit www.ccc.govt.nz/Heritage/Trees/

THREE 'Rs' FOR THE 21ST CENTURY REDUCE - REUSE - RECYCLE

Administrative staff at Christchurch schools can now have lessons on reducing waste – and saving money.

Helene Mautner, who is employed part time by Christchurch City Council's Target Zero business waste reduction and minimisation programme, has been working with city schools since February this year. As a first step she is offering schools a paper *reduce - reuse - recycle* programme that is easy to implement and run.

Staff at participating schools start by being educated on **why** they should reduce the amount of paper we use and send as waste to landfill.

Helene shows how they can reduce the amount of paper they use and waste by following the waste management hierarchy of reduce ~ reuse ~ recycle. Schools are encouraged to start by **reducing** the amount of paper they use and waste in the first place. This reduces their paper purchasing costs and waste disposal costs. Simple ways schools can achieve this are by:

- Changing the settings on the printer and photocopier to double sided where possible.
- Sending faxes from computers where possible.
- Questioning established practices. Must every notice be sent to *all staff* or can email, messages on chalkboards, bulletin boards or a central message board be used instead?

The same procedure is followed for reuse and recycle. Schools are advised that **reuse** is the next thing to do and that much of the paper thrown away is actually still usable. If reused,



schools can reduce both the amount of new paper purchased and the amount sent to landfill.

Helene then focuses on **recycling**. Schools are encouraged to collect paper for recycling into new products. Recycling reduces the amount of paper sent to landfill, resulting in fewer skip pick-ups, which reduces waste disposal costs.

Over 90 schools have been approached, many of which are already actively involved in some form of

waste minimisation. Project manager, Helene Mautner, is in the office on Mondays and Tuesdays for communication but is available for meetings with school staff any day of the week. For further information contact Helene at 371-1032 or email her on helene.mautner@ccc.govt.nz

Did you know?

- That it takes 2 to 3.5 tonnes of trees to make 1 tonne of paper
- That industrial countries have 22 per cent of the world's population but use 71 per cent of world's paper
- Since 1980 global paper consumption has jumped 74 per cent
- The average consumption of paper in NZ is 14.2 reams/person/year
- Making paper uses more water per tonne than any other product in the world.

BAMFORD SCHOOL TACKLES ITS WASTE

Bamford Primary School, in the Woolston area, has a roll of around 150 pupils aged from five to 13. Caretaker Peter Knowles says that the school's recycling efforts are paying off through committed "try, try again" attitudes to make the system work.

Our success came through recycling our corrugated cardboard and white paper via a local paper manufacturer. Next came the Council's green kerbside recycling container system and setting up recycle bins in classrooms, the office and staffroom. At the same time we taught children 'how' to reduce waste and recycle, and trained monitors to oversee. As an incentive, an award is presented at the end of the week for the best achieving class. This is sought after



by the children. Parents are informed of our progress through newsletters and asked for input.

Monitoring systems in place indicate worthwhile savings to be made from costs in waste disposal. Our first monitored month in June showed us that we had approximately 7.2 cubic metres of unwanted waste. We managed to reduce this to only 2.7 cubic metres by recycling 4.5 cubic metres of material.

Thanks to a grant from Pub Charity we have been able to buy a "chipper" to mulch our green waste for composting. We're enjoying our success with our recycling efforts.

Peter Knowles

NATIONAL STRATEGY TO MINIMISE WASTE

How we handle waste is crucial to how we live sustainably, according to *The New Zealand Waste Strategy* produced by the Ministry for the Environment.

A more effective, integrated approach to material and resource efficiency is advocated in the strategy, which has been recommended for approval to all ten Canterbury councils by the Canterbury Waste Subcommittee. Every individual and organisation has a role to play.

Waste is defined as any material, solid, liquid or gas, that is unwanted and/or unvalued, and discarded or discharged by its owner.

The strategy sets national targets for waste minimisation, hazardous wastes and waste disposal. Five core policies that form the basis for action are:

- Sound legislation underpinning waste minimisation
- Efficient pricing
- High environmental standards
- Adequate and accessible information
- Efficient use of materials.

The strategy specifies objectives, targets, measures and actions for institutions and legislation, waste reduction and materials efficiency, information and

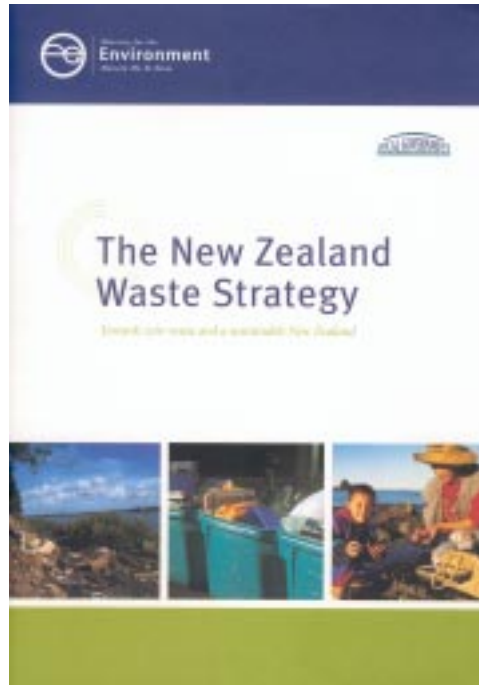
communication, and performance standards and guidelines up to December 2020.

For example, by December 2005 territorial local authorities should ensure that building regulations incorporate reference to space allocation for appropriate recycling facilities in multi-unit residential and commercial buildings. Also by that date, 60 per cent of garden wastes should be diverted from landfill and used beneficially. This should increase to more than 95 per cent by 2010.

By December 2005 all territorial local authorities will have instituted a measurement programme to identify existing construction and demolition waste quantities and set local targets for diversion from landfills. Implementation of charges for waste treatment and disposal, which reflect environmental and all other costs, should be in place by December 2003.

Only with major progress in all these areas will New Zealand close in on its objective of zero waste and sustainability, the strategy says.

For more details visit www.mfe.govt.nz



ALL EYES ON WORLD ENVIRONMENTAL SUMMIT

The World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg this month faces a tough assignment as it seeks agreement on how countries can co-operate to deal with pressing environmental problems.

Improving access by the poor to cleaner energy, safe drinking water, sanitation and waste disposal are likely to be identified as priorities.

The summit and a parallel meeting of non-governmental organisations has been billed as the biggest-ever UN gathering. Expected to be attended by more than 100 heads of state - including NZ's Prime Minister Helen Clark - and 60 000 delegates, it comes a decade after the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, which put environmental issues on the global political agenda.

However, this year's summit faces problems after ministers from more than 100 countries failed in Bali last June to agree on a draft plan for the meeting. Rich and poor nations were divided over the best ways to promote sustainable growth and development.

Helen Clark, heading New Zealand's delegation, plans to speak about this country's support for sustainable development. In the foreword of *An Assessment of New*

Zealand's Sustainable Development 1902-2002 the Prime Minister states that this country has made great strides in achieving sustainable development, particularly in the last 10 years. Most New Zealanders are now aware of the importance of balancing social, economic and environmental objectives.



"Our economic expansion continues to rise off the back of one of the most extensive renewable energy platforms, the purity and safety of extensive natural primary industries, and sustainably-managed forests. The services sector, the biggest contributor to the economy, includes a rapidly growing eco-tourism industry built around the appreciation and careful management of our natural wonders."

However, Helen Clark adds that New Zealand has to close social and economic gaps between Maori and other New Zealanders. She notes that this country has just begun to make inroads into waste minimisation, energy efficiency, and slowing the loss of our biodiversity. New Zealand has also begun to tackle climate change and is positioning itself to ensure the economy reaches a sustainable path to growth, the PM says.

RESTORATION BREATHES LIFE INTO STREAM

Freed from its boxed, timber-lined drain, the spring-fed Papanui Stream begins near the Main North Road and bubbles up as springs starting at Halliwell Avenue. The stream wends its way down to Grants Road, into Dudley Creek and out to the Avon River. Gently sloping banks, bolstered by small boulders, now await planting.

Residents from the Ngaio Marsh Retirement Village and elsewhere in the neighbourhood make their way along the newly-formed walkway to the Papanui Shopping Centre. Some pause to watch the ducks paddling in the stream.

Until recently there was no public access along this 330 metre stretch of waterway and surrounding houses had built fences to block the old drain from view. Now, thanks to the work of the local community and the

Christchurch City Council, the stream is being restored to its natural state. Although restoration work only began in February, three eels have already made the stream their new home.

Errol McCann, who lives alongside the stream and has been involved in early stream protection, is pleased with the results so far. "It's improved the whole area," he said. "Local residents are generally very happy with it."

This stretch of the Papanui Stream has good water flow all year round, an important factor when selecting waterways to restore. It runs through to Erica Reserve, which was restored five years ago. The Council developed a concept plan for the stream in consultation with a freshwater ecologist, a hydrology engineer and the local community.

"Our aim is to restore the stream for people's enjoyment and sense of history, as well as recreate a native habitat and ecosystem for plants, fish, birds and insects," says former Council landscape architect Michelle Snodgrass. "Working with experts, and the community, has allowed us to achieve some unique results."

She says the project is about using engineering techniques, but adapting them for use with natural materials. "An example is creating overhangs, which occur in natural streams with a good flow. The water cuts into the bank

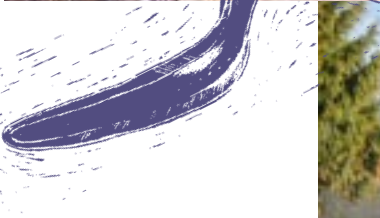
creating a type of ledge that hangs out over the water. These help shade the water by keeping it cool and providing hiding spaces for fish.

"In the past, restoration included overhangs by using gabion baskets (baskets made from chain link mesh and filled with rocks) which, until covered with plants, have a structural appearance. These provide few spaces for wildlife to hide. By using large tree stumps, we've created overhangs for eels and fish that look natural and provide a number of different hiding places."

Banks have been created that imitate the stream's natural state. Large rocks placed in the stream have created still and fast moving water areas. Natural cold-water springs were discovered and deep holes created for fish.

Construction, costing about \$100,000, was completed at the end of May. It included a 2.2 metre wide path for pedestrians and cyclists. Planting is expected to be completed by the end of the year and the Council will monitor the stream for the following 6-12 months.

There are exciting new plans for joint research between the Council and NIWA (National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research) to examine the way the stream colonises with invertebrates and plants. A vision is being developed for an area of high stream biodiversity in the near future.





HALSWELL QUARRY PARK GROUP FORMED

A new group, Friends of Halswell Quarry Park, has been formed to help care for the park and raise funds for new projects.

It is already working on its first event, a public open day on Sunday 13 October. The 45-voice Canterbury Plainsmen Barbershop Chorus will sing in the quarry's natural amphitheatre in the afternoon. Friends will also guide walks around the former quarry's new sister city gardens and native planting areas, and its historic buildings.

More than 50 supporters of the park are members of the group which formed in July.

"We are there to help protect and preserve the values of the park and build it up as a facility of Christchurch," says the Vice President John Taylor. Friends will keep an eye on walking tracks, gardens and native planting areas. They will also take part in working bees and fundraise for special features. Anyone interested in joining the Friends can contact John Taylor, ph 332 1685.

Kay Holder, Regional Parks Team Manager, says groups like the Friends benefit the Council by bringing together various interested parties, promoting the park and assisting rangers with its day-to-day care. Friends can also raise funds and help look after plantings.

The 55 hectare park combines an extensive area of native vegetation that was planted to form a natural backdrop, and a lake and open grassland created within the quarry. It also features historic buildings, six sister city gardens and a Canterbury botanical collection. Tracks, viewing points and two car parking areas have made the park increasingly popular for walking and other recreational activities over the last decade.

Halswell Quarry, which played a major role in the development of Christchurch, ceased production in 1990 after 140 years of quarrying. Its fine blue-grey stone can be seen in many of the city's prominent buildings including the Canterbury Museum and Provincial Council Buildings.

NEW QEII LEISURE POOL OPENS

QEII Park's new indoor leisure pool, developed as "The Lost City of Atlantis", is already a popular aquatic playground for swimmers of all ages.

Including New Zealand's largest wave pool, a children's learner's pool, play zone and a shallow entry area, it is the largest indoor leisure pool in Australasia.

Its opening on 8 August completed a \$20.7 million redevelopment project, which also incorporates a

50 metre international competition pool that complements the existing 25 metre coaching pool and 30 metre dive well. The original pool complex was built for the 1974 Commonwealth Games. Twenty eight years on it has developed into a unique multisport and leisure complex catering for family recreation through to elite sport performance and development, says City Council Leisure Manager Alistair Graham.

The new centre incorporates a number of environmentally friendly features. For example ozone water treatment is used to help ensure clear, clean water. This filtration system



is a powerful oxidant that kills off living organisms. It is also odourless, giving it a major advantage over chlorine.

Most of the heating comes from the ventilation system where a heat recovery system has been installed for increased energy efficiency. A heat pump is used to recover heat from the exhaust air and this energy is redirected back for heating the fresh air and for heating pool water.

QEII Park has converted from coal to LPG as one of the energy sources for heating the redeveloped complex. The new LPG gas boiler, which can generate one third of the heat required, is mainly used in winter to provide extra heating. A super-efficient condensing boiler was chosen. Because combustion gases from the boiler are warm not hot, the gas boiler operates at an efficiency of 95 per cent.

Leaks, which meant the swimming complex had to be closed during the July school holidays, have been fixed by contractors and are not expected to cause any further problems.

RESILIENT COTTAGES REFLECT INTERESTING HISTORY

The Matson Cottages, situated on Harewood Road and Matson Road, and built by Henry Matson in 1883, are an interesting group of late Victorian workers cottages. Though their survival has had a precarious history in recent years, happily five of the original six are still standing (one was demolished in 1963), with the dedication of current owners ensuring their survival.

The conservation, restoration and retention of two cottages was recently recognised in the 2002 inaugural Shirley/Papanui Community Heritage Board Awards – Nga Tapuwae o Matou Tupuna – Footsteps of our Ancestors. Board Chairperson Yvonne Palmer stated that the awards have been established to encourage individuals and groups to celebrate and take pride in their local heritage.

Builder of the cottages, Henry Matson, was born in Kent in 1814 and emigrated with his brother to Australia in 1835. Shipwrecked off Tasmania, he settled there working as a harbour master and investing in two stations and a quarry. Many early Melbourne buildings were built of stone from the quarry. Living between Tasmania and Melbourne for almost 30 years, Matson decided to emigrate to Christchurch in 1862 following the death of his first wife. Here he founded H. Matson and Co, one of the largest stock and station firms at the time. Matson's offices were in the

Torlesse building in Cathedral Square designed by Maxwell Bury in 1864 and demolished in 1916.

Henry Matson owned property on Harewood Road where he built a dwelling he named *Delce*. The first dwelling was damaged by fire but the second still stands today. In 1882 he began the subdivision of Matsons Road, building six identical workers cottages in 1883. Two cottages fronted Harewood Road and four on Matsons Road.

Following Matson's death in 1885 his second wife Edith and son Conway Matson inherited the estate. Conway Matson was the builder of the Edwardian Horse Bazaar of 1903 on the corner of Bedford Row, Madras and Lichfield Streets, which is currently being conserved and restored for a new use.

The cottages are modest but well built with stone piles, timber framing and kauri weatherboards. Between each cottage was a shared well, water tank stand and washhouse. Today the cottages remain in reasonably original condition. Perhaps their survival is due in part to the ownership of the cottages remaining in the Matson family until the 1920s and subsequent ownership tending to remain within families over the past eight decades.

Jenny May
Director, Our City



OUR CITY PROGRAMME

Our City O-Tautahi will present and exchange ideas and knowledge about the City and important development, planning and environmental issues.

Within this Heritage building, the only purpose built home of the Christchurch

City Council, you will view exhibitions and displays addressing the past, present and future of Christchurch which will inform and educate all who pass through it.

Ground Floor Exhibitions

Past

Gifts to the City – The collection of items gifted to the City and Mayors, past and present, of Christchurch from around the world.

50 years on – A look at how central Christchurch has changed over 50 years.

Our City Pre 1850 – Highlights the history of the City prior to formal settlement by the Canterbury Association.

Early Surveyors – The current Director's office was the City Surveyor's office – this exhibit presents short biographies of who occupied this office between 1887 and 1924.

Reserve 10 – The history of this building and site – its many uses and stages of development.

Lost Christchurch – A pictorial examination of buildings now demolished.

First Floor

Know your Councils – Who and what are the Christchurch City Council and Environment Canterbury?

Christchurch Art Gallery – A look at the new Christchurch Art Gallery due to open in 2003.

Present

Issues of the Day – Changing displays exploring the issues important to the people and governing bodies of Christchurch.

Environment Canterbury – Various exhibitions outlining the work and policy of the Council responsible for the promotion of sustainable management of natural and physical resources of the City and Canterbury region.

Future

Central City Revitalisation – An opportunity to view, and comment on, detailed plans of proposals for the central city of Christchurch by the Mayoral Forum.

Community Room – A permanent display about the Christchurch Environment Centre and changing displays about our community groups and professional organisations.



A GREEN LIST

Teaching children the importance of reducing waste

Recycling helps to preserve our natural resources, conserve energy, reduce pollution and protect our environment. We must teach our children the importance of waste reduction and recycling.

Teachers may like to look at some of the waste management resources produced by CCC for schools (videos, guest speakers and school visits).

<http://www.ccc.govt.nz/Publications/ResourceCatalogueForSchools/Recycling.asp>

Christchurch City Libraries have many excellent books, both fiction and non-fiction, that teach children about recycling.

Non-fiction

Beyond the bin: the Livewire guide to reusing and recycling by Jo Budd (J 363.72 BUD)

Crafts from recyclables: great ideas from throwaways edited by Colleen Van Blaricom (J 745.5 CRA)

The great recycling adventure: a lift-a-flap look at old things made new by Jan McHarry (J 363.72 MCH)

Recycle!: a handbook for kids by Gail Gibbons (J 628.44 GIB)

Recycle rubbish by Viv Smith (J 363.72 SMI)

Rubbish and recycling by Rosie Harlow & Sally Morgan (J 363.72 HAR)

Waste, recycling and re-use by Steve Parker (J 363.72 PAR)

What if?: a book about recycling by Mick Manning and Brita Granstrom (J 363.72 MAN)

Fiction

Don't throw it away! by Diana Noonan (PICTURE BOOK)

The great trash bash by Looren Leedy (PICTURE BOOK)

Recycled by Sandy McKay (OLDER FICTION)

Trashy town by Andrea Zimmerman & David Clemesa (PICTURE BOOK)



Christchurch City Libraries
Te Whare Pukapuka Aa Iwi Otautahi