

Waste situation at MAC



TEAM GREEN
MOUNT ASPIRING COLLEGE



Why we are here



- RECYCLING and waste management at Mount Aspiring College is NOT working; We are here on behalf of Team Green and our grounds team of which Graham spends around **3.5 hours** of his day collecting rubbish.

We would like to show what we have tried, what we can suggest and why we need support from you.

Background:

- In 2020 Team Green initiated a drain cleaning project, where we cleaned out all the school drains; we extracted lots of rubbish from each drain. Here is our youtube video link about the project if you are interested: [Drain Cleaning Project](#)
- The same year Team Green held free beeswax wraps workshops; a drain art design competition, and secured a BYO container deal with the canteen (which is no longer supported by the canteen) to attempt to increase awareness and provide alternatives.

What is the extent of the issue:



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This year we focused again at waste at our school; in term 1 we collected discarded food waste for one week around the school grounds - with the help of the caretaker - and found approximate 4 kg of food waste on the ground each day (and lots of litter too).

In Term 2 we conducted a waste audit. Together with caretaker Graham we emptied **1 yellow recycling bin** and **1.5 rubbish bins**, which we collected from the school ground and sorted them into:

- 1) food waste
- 2) recycling and
- 3) rubbish

The yellow recycling bin contained:

- 10 kg food waste
- 1.3kg recycling (now contaminated)
- 8kg rubbish/waste

The rubbish bins contained:

- 14kg food waste
- 1.4kg recycling
- 25kg rubbish/waste



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What we need to change



- If recyclables are put together with food waste they are contaminated and won't end up in recycling
- The school pays Allwaste an average of \$835/month for waste disposal
- The school CANTEEN contributes to **a lot of rubbish** that ends up in landfill/on the school grounds by selling wasteful, packaged items: Lipton ice tea plastic bottles, cans of fizzy drinks, glad wrapped food items, hot chip cups which are not recyclable, plastic wrapped ice blocks etc. If the CANTEEN is run by the school, the Board has a direct input what can be sold and reduce the waste produced on site! Is this correct?
- COMPOSTING on site would reduce the amount of food waste that goes to landfill; this is an easy and effective way of putting carbon back into the soil instead of increasing the Greenhouse Gas Emissions; the school needs to come up with a good system to collect food waste and divert food waste going to landfill.
- More education also about what can go into the recycling bin at school is needed. How do we make everyone care?

Team Green initiatives



- We had a screening of ***For the Blue*** Documentary (Y7-10) made by young New Zealanders about waste management. It was very hard hitting and received great feedback from students - but it hasn't changed the behaviour around waste at school.
- Team Green started a composting initiative this year for the year 7 & 8 classes in term 3, placing composting containers in each classroom with the plea to collect food waste, which then should get emptied into a makeshift compost bin at school (we currently don't compost on site)- unfortunately this is not working so far.
- Team Green applied for the QLDC waste minimisation fund in April in order to be able to set up a working composting system at school - the school received a grant of \$4500 which needs to be used by June 2023 - the school now needs to set up the system and find a suitable spot for the composting bins.



The wording is in our school vision statement and values but how are we actually upholding these?

Kaupapa

Toitū te whenua
Toitū te takata

The land is strong
The people are fulfilled

Vision (Whakakitenga)

To be an inclusive and sustainable learning environment, inspiring our learning community to be creative, curious, courageous and compassionate

Values (Uaratanga)

Whanaungatanga: we create strong relationships that foster a unique sense of belonging and support for each other.

Manaakitanga: we respect each other and our environment. We act with integrity and are proud of ourselves and our school.

Tikanga: we understand and accept each other. Our diversity is our strength.

Aroha: we act with empathy, compassion and kindness.

Ihi: we grow resilience through our determination and commitment to do our very best.

Kaitiakitanga: we strive to live sustainably by protecting our unique environment.

Our ideas / What we need from BOT



- **All staff and students need to be involved in waste management.**
- We want the MAC to come up with a **specific mission statement** and the **school board to set a strategic goal and targets** around waste minimisation at school just as other schools in the country already have done.

Ideas:

- **Go waste free** (no bins at school) just like the Primary Schools and Early Learning Centres in Wānaka (this is Ronnie's preference).
- Have **better signage** on bins (easy / foolproof/ encouraging) so everyone knows exactly what goes in which bin.
- **Canteen audit:** create less waste within the school by changing what is sold in our canteen. Who is responsible for this?
- **Education at staff meeting, whanau and assembly:** Waste/ recycling Quizzes, Guest Speakers at assembly, visit Wastebuster etc.
- Have **composting bins** around the canteen / food tech department and field and a composting system on site.

The waste minimisation at school needs to be **MANAGED FROM THE TOP** - leading it and having clear expectations

Successful Case Studies include: [One Tree Hill](#), [Western Springs College](#) and [Sancta Maria College](#).