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## **Save Some for Me! A Child's View on Saving the Planet**

*by Telisa Pearson-Collett*

Greetings! I have to say that I am especially proud of this issue of the newsmagazine, as it was inspired by, and co-edited by, our (very nearly) eight year-old son Aidan. Ruth and I had been bouncing around a few ideas for an 'eco' edition for a while, but things came to a head a few months ago when one of the glossy 'lifestyle' magazines devoted an entire issue to eco-friendly living. We're not usually purchasers of glossy mags (well, not since we had to start paying school fees anyway), but my husband Stu spotted this one at the supermarket and bought it home as a 'treat' for me. As a bit of a "hippy, greeny" bunch (other people's words, not ours!), we were all pretty keen to read it, especially as the front cover featured TV presenter Petra Bagust, who's had three home births.

Apart from the odd eco-tip and a piece about All Black Anton Oliver (I'm a huge fan!) the magazine was pretty disappointing. The article about Petra did talk about home birth, but was pretty lightweight and didn't really talk much about either birthing or environmental issues and the other articles were pretty poor too. One piece about gardening featured an interview with an amazing couple from the South Island who have built their own eco-house, which features a living grass-covered roof, recycled glass bottles as a feature window, lots of passive solar heating ideas, an incredible Roman-style tile fire and all sorts of other earth-friendly features. I've seen them on TV and the place is great! However, in the magazine, there was not one word about the house, or about their philosophies and unique approach to sustainable living. I guess Stu and I just thought "Well, that's typical ", after all it was a 'mainstream' magazine, but it was Aidan who was most disappointed. "Oh Mum!" he said, "You could do a much better job without even trying." Well, what's a Mum to do following a statement like that?

Anyhow, while we lack the resources of the glossy mags, we make up for it with 'heart' and Aidan helped select some stories, found websites, wrote his own article and, importantly, gave me a child's view on preserving our natural world for future generations. Thank-you Aidan. For this issue, you have the title of guest co-editor! The ideas which feature in this magazine are just part of our daily family life and won't be new to many of you either. However, it never hurts to be reminded of little things we can all do, in the here and now, to be more earth-friendly. We've also given you resources for taking things further if you want! I'd like to thank Ruth Hungerford for sourcing many of the articles, for the breastfeeding column and for arranging for us to use Shaun Barnett's inspiring story about introducing children to the wonders of the natural world and his sons' birth stories. Thanks also to Shelley Walker for providing not one, but two birth stories, and helping to make this issue even more special. My apologies for the lateness of this issue, however, our family was struck down with that gastro-bug that's been sweeping through the Waikato and for several weeks we had one or more people ill. At one point in the school holidays the kids and I hadn't left the house for two whole weeks, such was the rate of sickness — unheard of! Anyway, I hope it was worth the wait...

Arohanui, Telisa