

## Teachers' Notes

# **RUBBISH** by Mic Conway

A highly original performance about the 3R's – REDUCE, REUSE AND RECYLCE. Using a variety of skills including magic, puppets, tap-dancing, circus and song, Mic Conway makes the message fun.

He demonstrates the magic of recycling with some dazzling tricks and shows the pleasure in reusing "junk" for music and fun. There is much audience participation, creating music out of bits of RUBBISH.

This is an educational and entertaining show that encourages children to think of what they can do in their everyday lives to minimise their consumption of resources.

### **PRE-SHOW DISCUSSION**

#### 1. What is Rubbish?

Discuss what one person think is rubbish can be a valuable resource to another, ie different cultures, species, scavengers and worms etc.

#### 2. Is there too much pollution/rubbish?

What damage is it doing? Can we keep making all this rubbish? How long before we run out of natural resources or "suffocate" in our own waste?

#### 3. What does nature do about waste?

Can we learn from nature – natural recycling, life/death, composting etc.

#### 4. How can we reduce rubbish?

Consume less, try to buy products with less packaging, say no to plastic carrier bags. Use more natural products. Separate bottles, plastic, paper etc.

#### 5. How can we save energy/resources?

Switch off lights and appliances etc. Shorter showers, turn off the tap when brushing your teeth. Use grey water for washing, only wash when you have a full load, use the clothes line instead of the dryer, solar panels. Use both side of paper. Find out more through various environmental organizations ie SCRAP, Clean up Australia, Australian Conservation foundation, Reverse Garbage. Find out about local council incentives.

#### 6. What can your family do?

Start a compost bin. Separate the rubbish from the recycling. Encourage local councils to try and reduce consumption of electricity, water, gas. Use renewable energy and natural products ie hang out washing, use grey water on garden, water tank etc. Find out what the local council is doing.

#### 7. What can your school do?

Separate rubbish bins for waste. Start a compost/warm farm. Make an audit of energy consumption ie water, electricity and paper. Use recycled paper and low energy products. Join up or support environmentally aware organisations.

### **The 3R's Song**

#### Verse 1

It's fun to go and buy thing  
For every boy and girl  
There's so much stuff there's never enough from all around the world  
But if all these things were piled up maybe they would reach the sky  
So reduce, reuse, recycle and here's the reason why.

#### Chorus

There's no such thing as garbage  
Everything can be reused  
There's not a scrap of rubbish (rubbish!)  
You can use it if you choose

Don't chuck it in the gutter  
Or just out anything in the bin  
Reduce, reuse, recycle  
And all the world will win.

### Verse 2

So don't waste your waste  
Separate it please my friend  
Bottles, paper, plastic and tin  
You can use it all again

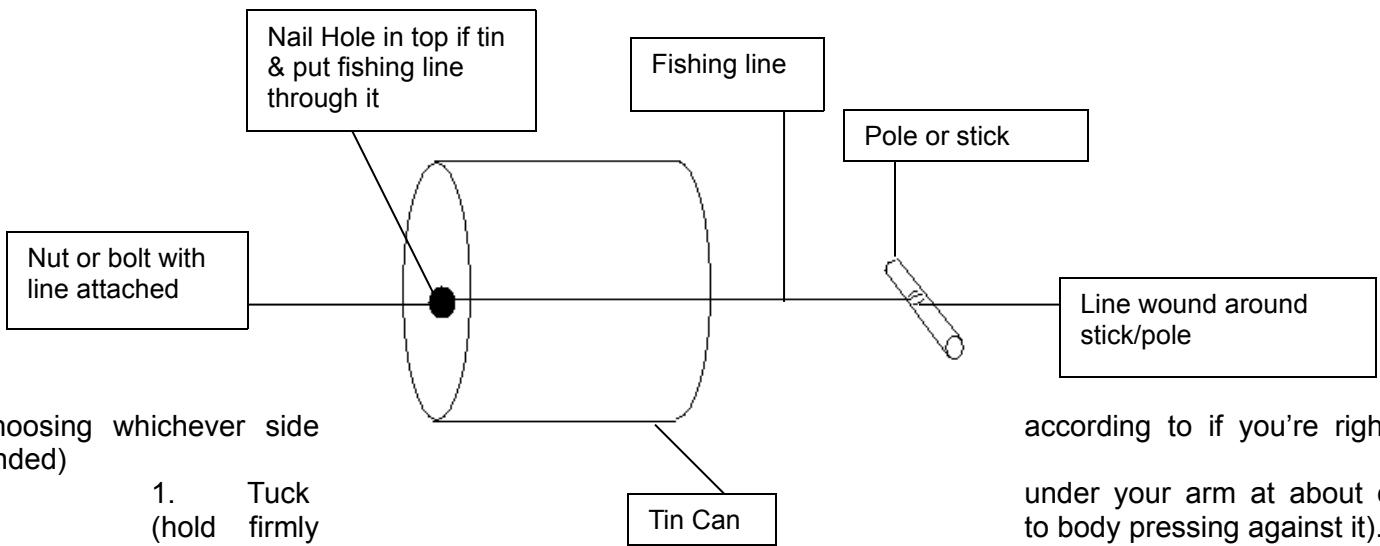
An apple core, a crust of bread, you may think they're yuck!  
Squashed tomatoes, rotten eggs or just a pile of muck  
But to a wiggly worm in a compost bin  
It's a gourmet dinner  
They'll turn it into the richest soil  
Everyone's a winner!

### Making music out of rubbish

Of course there are probably hundreds of musical instruments you can make out of junk – why not experiment? It's fun!

Here's just a few of the many instruments Min and the children played in the show.

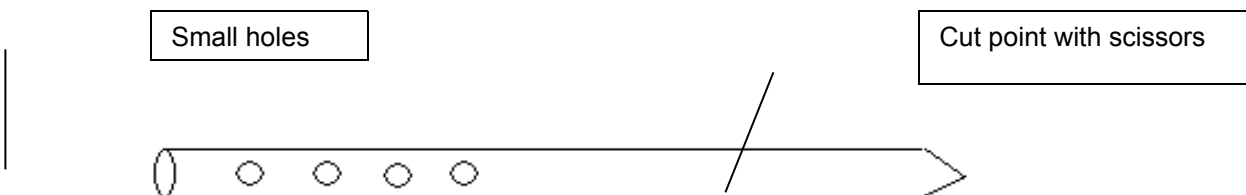
### Tin Can Banjo



(Choosing whichever side handed)

1. Tuck (hold firmly)
  2. Hold hand on same side as tin can.
  3. With opposite hand "strum" the line with index finger (The tighter you hold the line the higher the notes).
- according to if you're right left under your arm at about chest to body pressing against it). stick and tighten the line with

### Plastic Drinking Straw



1. Cut one end of straw into a point with scissors. You will then find you have two points as straw "rounds" itself.
2. Flatten the two points by running them between your teeth (don't chew).

3. Make holes at other end on the flat side either with a screw driver or by lighting a match blowing out the flame immediately and while hot making a neat hole by pushing it through the straw (adult supervision needed).
4. Blow into pointy end and use fingers over holes to change the pitch.

### **Rubber Glove Basson**

1. Cut the end off the thumb of a disposable rubber glove (not washing up gloves).
2. Slide soft plastic tube into thumb hole.
3. Stretch wrist end of glove over cardboard funnel/paper towel (1#) and wrap tape around all of 3-6cm below top of funnel making sure top of plastic tube (inside glove thumb) is almost level with top. Make sure glove skin is reasonably tight over the end of the funnel (this is what vibrates and makes the sound).
4. Blow into tube (if no sound adjust tightness or make there are no air leaks around tape).
5. Slide another funnel (#2) that fits neatly around funnel (#1) – this is not hard to find with different brands or plastic wrap and paper toweling.
6. Blow into tube and (like trumponing) change the pitch by sliding cardboard funnel (#2) up and down.

Diagram on page 4

### **Garbage Bin Box Bass**

1. Turn box or garbage bin upside down and hammer nail through centre of the base.
2. Thread nylon or curtain through hole.
3. Tie a few knots at the end of cord inside bin.
4. Pull tight and tie other end to pole or broom.
5. Put one foot on bin or box on opposite corner to broom end.
6. Straighten broom and thereby tighten string and pluck string pitching the notes according to tightness of cord.

Diagram on page 4

### **Chook Noise Cup**

1. Put hole through base of plastic disposable cup.
2. Thread string through and knots bigger than hole.
3. Tie a small piece of wet sponge on other end of string.
4. Take wet sponge with one hand (while other hand holds cup) and grip the string with the sponge near cup gradually slide sponge and it sounds like a chicken clucking.

Diagram on page 4

### **Magic**

Unfortunately I can't show you how I do my tricks, because that will spoil the magic. However most libraries and bookshops have books that teach magic and it's lots of fun learning. There are even DVD's and videos that help.

I learnt from "Tarbells Course in Magic" and "Routine Manipulation" by Lewis Ganson.

1. Hold a paper or plastic bag open between your thumb and middle finger.
2. Pretend to pull out of the pocket of your other hand an invisible ball (curl your fingers as if there is really a small ball in them).
3. Pretend to lob the ball up in the air (following it with your eyes and head) until it lands in the bag, snap or click your fingers (as you do the sound of the bag against your fingers is like a ball landing in the bag).
4. Act very pleased with yourself that your such a good catch.
5. Get a friend or family member to catch and throw the ball into the bag you're holding (remember it's all in the way you carry it off with your eyes and body and misdirection).

## **Young Australia Workshop**

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