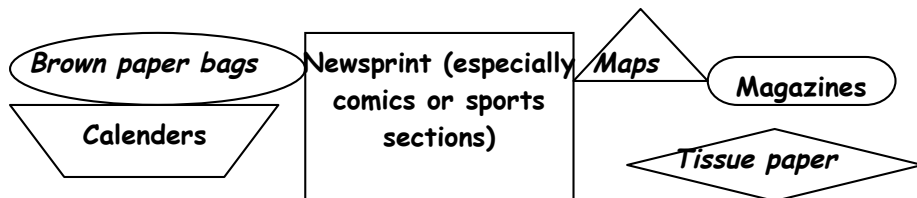


It's a WRAP

When it comes to paper for wrapping gifts, almost anything goes. Some things you can use include:



If you want to decorate the paper, paint pictures or designs right on it. Or use a sponge to dab on paint. Metallic acrylic paints - gold, silver and copper - can really make a distinctive-looking gift (Use a metallic ribbon or bow to match or contrast the paint).

For a natural look, wrap boxes in brown paper from paper bags. Use jute or raffia as ribbon. For bows, use pine cones, dried leaves, dried flowers, berries, pine twigs, dried fruit, cinnamon sticks, etc.

Potato chip and other snack bags are usually made of cellophane or other non-recyclable plastic. You can make a great gift bag out of an old chip bag by turning it inside out, washing it off, folding the top over and gluing it. Use a decorative ribbon to tie it shut, and you have a beautiful, shiny gift bag!

What can I use?

- ???
- Cardboard from packaging like cereal boxes
 - Clear plastic from packaging around Christmas cards
 - Tins, jars and aluminium cans
 - Plastic bottles (all shapes like oil bottles, water bottle, even big juice bottles)
 - Ice cream sticks
 - Scraps of materials
 - Junk mail like catalogues or pamphlets
 - Bottle tops
 - Foil and pie trays (cleaned after cooking)



Just look in your bins and recycling – you'd be surprised the things that can be reused.

Christmas Craft and Dainty Decorations

Using waste materials to make crafts is not only an excellent way to recycle; it is also a good way to learn about waste reduction. Making your own decorations is a creative challenge and is a fun activity for the whole family. Best of all, you can keep the decorations for years to come

Good tips:

Scoop leftover sequins, pieces of felt and pipe cleaners into a bag or box and mark it "Creative Case".

Keep an eye out for interesting jars or paper.

Don't forget to ask family and friends for fun stuff like ribbon from presents or old cards.

Work on scrap cardboard or a thick pile of newspaper (to protect your work surface).

Use good quality glue. Wood glue is best as it's water cleanup.

If you want to copy anything from or re-print this booklet please do, but it would be nice if you acknowledged my hard work. I took some ideas from the following websites:

- ❖ www.kaboose.com/christmas-crafts
- ❖ www.dltk-holidays.com/xmas/
- ❖ www.enchantedlearning.com/crafts/christmas
- ❖ www.allfreecrafts.com/christmas

Thanks and happy Christmas Crafting – Wendy Lenthén

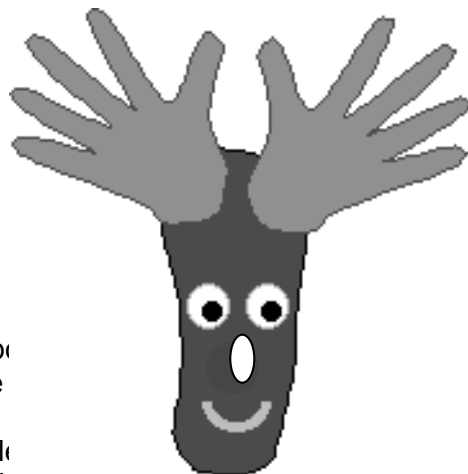
Hand and Foot Reindeer

What do I need?

- ❖ Cardboard from cereal box
- ❖ Pencil
- ❖ Scissors
- ❖ Glue
- ❖ Googly eyes (optional)

How do I make it?

Trace around foot and hands on the cardboard. Cut out carefully. The foot will become the reindeer's head and the hands will be the reindeer's antlers. Glue the handprint "antlers" to the top of the reindeer. Paint or colour the reindeer. Add a bright red paper nose, a paper (or drawn) mouth, and googly eyes (or paper eyes) to the reindeer's head. Punch hole between antlers and thread wool or cotton string to hang.



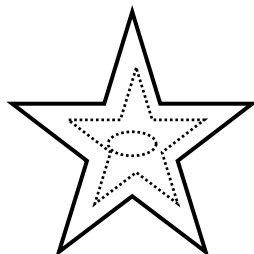
Traditional Mexican tin cut-outs.

What do I need?

- ❖ A disposable pie plate or roasting pan (cleaned)
- ❖ A marker
- ❖ Scissors
- ❖ A large nail
- ❖ String or yarn
- ❖ Scrap cardboard or newspaper

How do I make it?

Cut a simple design of a star, angel or bell on the disposable aluminium pie plate. Use a large nail make a hole towards the top of the design and attach string. Using the nail indent the cut-out with a pattern of your choice.



Icecream Stick Star Ornament

What do I need?

- ❖ Icecream sticks
- ❖ Glue
- ❖ Glitter, or other decorative items
- ❖ Ribbon

How do I make it?

Glue the craft sticks together to form a star shape (see example). Glue a ribbon loop to the back of the star to hang in on your Christmas tree. Glue on beads, buttons, jewels, and other decorative items, or use glitter glue to decorate your stars.



Christmas Cards Angels

What do I need?

- ❖ Similar size Christmas cards
- ❖ Scissors
- ❖ Wooden bead or small foam ball
- ❖ Glue
- ❖ Wire or pipe cleaner
- ❖ Wool
- ❖ Sequins
- ❖ Glitter
- ❖ Old ribbon

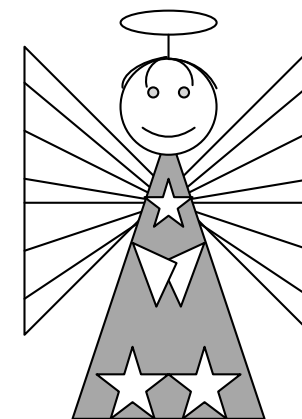
How do I make it?

Cut two half circles cut from the front of similar size Christmas cards cutting out a full circle from the front of a single card, then cutting this circle in half. Take one of the half circles and fold it into a cone shape, overlapping a little at the back and bringing the cone to a fairly sharp point at the top. You can staple the overlapping edges together or use glue. This is the angel's body.

Take the other half circle and, beginning at the straight edge, fold over about 1/8" inch, then turn the circle over and fold the edge over again in the opposite direction. Repeat the folds, accordion style, until you reach the other edge. Fan out the accordion folds slightly, and then pinch firmly in the centre. These are the angel's wings. You could use a half circle of a dollie to give a different look for the wings.

Paint the wooden bead in flesh colour. When dry, use fine permanent marker to draw on the angel's face. Place some glue in the bottom hole of the bead. Now slide the bottom hole of the bead onto the sharp point of the cone, making sure the face is at the front and the overlapping edges of the cone are at the back. Let this dry firmly in place. Shape a short length of wire, or a metallic chenille stem, into a round halo with a stem. Glue the stem into the top hole of the bead so that the stem is positioned at the back of the head and the halo is centred over the top of the angel. Glue a small amount of wool under the halo, covering the top hole in the bead completely.

Glue the angel's wings into place, centring the wings just below the bead at the back. Add a small loop of ribbon, thread or cord to hang.



For any recycling/reusing queries in the Blue Mountains contact:
Waste & Resources Project Officer; Blue Mountains City Council; Ph: 02 4780 5000
For any comments or to copy whole or part of this handout contact:
Wendy Lenthén, Sustainable Living Education Officer; Blue Mountains Council;
E-mail: wendy@webfoot.com.au

CD Snowman

What do I need?

- ❖ discarded CD
- ❖ can lid
- ❖ two googly eyes
- ❖ three buttons
- ❖ white spray paint
- ❖ black permanent marker
- ❖ 2 pieces of wool
- ❖ small piece of fabric
- ❖ two small pom poms
- ❖ glue

How do I make it?

Spray paint the CD and can lid on both sides in white paint and let dry.

Glue on the eyes. Draw small triangle (for the nose) with black permanent pen and make a series of dots, to represent the snowman's mouth. Cut a length of wool to shape around the top of the can lid, extending down a little less than halfway around the edge. Glue a small pom pom on each end of the wool (for the earmuffs). Glue the completed snowman head on top of the CD. Tie small strip of fabric around the neck as a scarf and glue 3 buttons down the front. Add a loop of wool to the top to hang.



Easy Glitter Stars

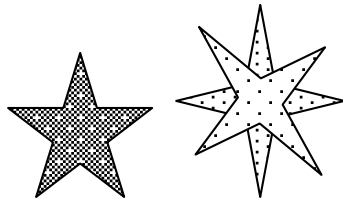
What do I need?

- ❖ Glitter in assorted colours
- ❖ Plastic food wrap
- ❖ Large piece of cardboard

How do I make it?

A bottle of White glue (wood glue or PCV glue is best) Secure the plastic food wrap with tape onto a piece of cardboard tray, pulling it smooth and taut. Make star shapes on the plastic wrap with the glue bottle. Fill in the centre with glue and sprinkle the glue with glitter. Leave to dry for 48 hours. Gently peel the plastic wrap away from the back, working in from each point. Now use stars to decorate windows, the cling wrap will stick to the windows without glue.

You can also make other shapes like a bell, or a pine tree.



Quick tip: Use bottled Glitter Glue. It's quick and easy!

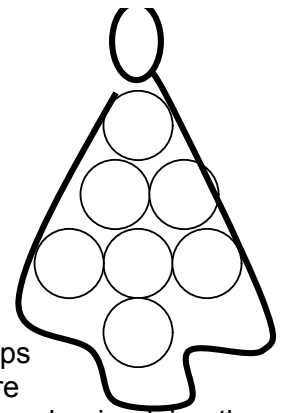
Beer Bottle Cap Ornament

What do I need?

- ❖ 7 beer bottle caps
- ❖ Cardboard (from cereal or biscuit box)
- ❖ Leftover Christmas ribbon
- ❖ Pompoms or glitter
- ❖ String or thin ribbon for hanger

How do I make it?

Arrange bottle tops on cardboard flat side down (see example). Draw then cut out shape. Glue the caps to cardboard. Glue on the pompoms or glitter to centre of each bottle cap. Starting at the top, near the hanger, begin gluing the ribbon all around the shape so it overhangs both the front and the back sides of the caps just a little bit. This will cover the sharp edges of the caps. Save a little for the top loop for the hanger.



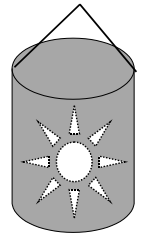
Luminaries:

What do I need?

- ❖ Steel can
- ❖ Thread (to hang)
- ❖ Water
- ❖ Nail and Hammer (Adult supervision advised)

How do I make it?

Fill can with water and freeze. Draw or trace a pattern and tape the paper to the can. Using a nail or punch, hammer holes to make the design. Wait for the ice inside to melt. Place a candle in the can and light will shine through the holes.



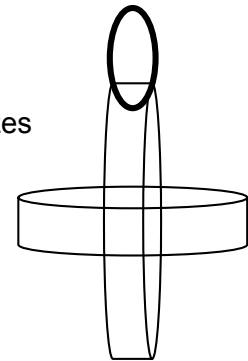
Bottle Baubles

What do I need?

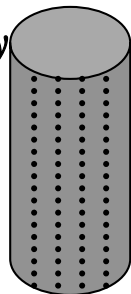
- ❖ Plastic bottles of different shapes and sizes
- ❖ Sharp knife (get an adult to help)
- ❖ Plate
- ❖ Glitter
- ❖ Glue
- ❖ Staple (optional)
- ❖ Wool, string or ribbon

How do I make it?

Using clean plastic bottles, cut crossways to make rings of plastic. Spread glitter onto plate and glue the edge of the rings. Dip the gluey edge into the plate of glitter to edge the ring. Push one ring inside other, pointing in different directions (see picture). Use more rings for different effect. Staple or glue overlapping parts of rings and thread wool, string or ribbon to make a loop to hang it.



Pringle Can Christmas Card Display



What do I need?

- ❖ Pringles can
- ❖ Ball of wool or long ribbon
- ❖ Christmas cards
- ❖ Glue
- ❖ Decorative ribbon or lace

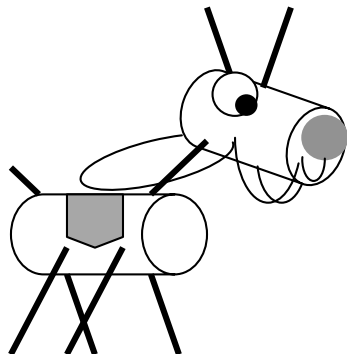
How do I make it?

Remove the bottom of a Pringles can. Take a ball of wool or long ribbon and glue the end strand on the inside top of the can. Begin covering the can by pushing the ball of wool or ribbon through the inside the can, up the outside of the can and down through the middle again until the canister is covered in taut strings. Glue the end string to the inside of the can. Use a length of decorative ribbon or lace for the ruffle around the top and bottom of the can. Display Christmas cards by sliding the back of each card under a few strings around the can.

Cork Reindeers

What do I need?

- ❖ 2 wine corks
- ❖ Glue or glue gun
- ❖ Wire skewer
- ❖ Toothpicks
- ❖ Small pom poms
- ❖ Black marker
- ❖ Googly eye (optional)
- ❖ Christmas Ribbon or wool



How do I make it?

Glue googly eyes to one end of cork, add pom pom for nose and draw smile. In the same cork and using skewer poke two holes in top of head. Insert two toothpicks for antlers.

Cut a piece of Christmas Ribbon to make the saddle. Glue on body (the second cork). Add legs and tail by poking holes in 2nd cork with skewer and insert toothpicks. Glue on piece of red or green wool from head to body on each side, to look like reins.

Create cool craft projects, gifts, and more using ordinary cans from your recycling bin! Making art from solid waste saves money; saves landfill space; energy and natural resources needed to produce art supplies. Reusing cans and other recyclable products to make crafts encourages creative thinking and problem solving. Best of all - making something from nothing is fun!

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Cascading Christmas star mobile

What do I need?

- ❖ Thick paper, eg biscuit or cereal boxes
- ❖ Drinking straws
- ❖ Wool, string or ribbon
- ❖ Paint, markers, or glitter

How do I make it?

Draw and cut out 6 stars of various sizes from thick paper. Poke a tiny hole in the centre of each star (for threading the wool, string or ribbon through them). Cut a drinking straw into segments (the exact length is not important). Tie a thick knot at one end of the wool, string or ribbon. Thread the smallest star through the other end of the wool, string or ribbon and thread star to the knot. Then thread a segment of drinking straw then star then segment of drinking straw and so on. (See picture). When the last star has been threaded, tie a large loop at the end to hang your mobile.



Christmas Thanks Chain

What do I need?

- ❖ Junk mail like catalogues or pamphlets
- ❖ Stapler or glue
- ❖ Plain paper
- ❖ Glitter or pencils
- ❖ Pen



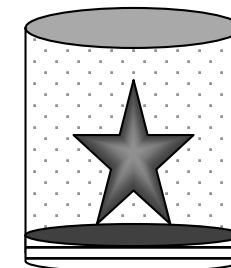
How do I make it?

Cut out 25 strips of junk mail and 25 strips of plain paper (the reverse side of computer paper would be great). Write something your family is thankful for on one plain paper strip and decorate with glitter or pencils. Staple it into a loop, then make next loop with junk mail. Continue one loop with your thanks on it and the next loop made from junk mail.

Snow Globe

What do I need?

- ❖ Jar with lid
- ❖ Small figure (like broken xmas decoration)
- ❖ Water
- ❖ Glue (not water based)
- ❖ Glitter
- ❖ Glycerin



How do I make it?

Glue a small plastic figurine to the inside top of the lid. Fill the jar with equal parts water and a little liquid Glycerin (which will make the glitter fall slowly). Add glitter. Glue top closed, leave overnight to dry.

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