



Kia Ora Dear Chelsea Children, Parents and Whanau!

How are you my dear friends???? Oh my goodness, at least the weather is fabulous! Imagine if it was grey and pouring with rain??? Every morning, very early, I go to visit my horse. As you know we have been in a big drought, and there isn't much grass in his paddock so I lead him out to have a nibble on the grass around the place. Today he had a big feast on the Toi toi!

Fancy that! He even gobbled up the fluffy white flowery parts and chomped through the leaves! Have you ever touched a Toi toi leaf? Its VERY rough and sort of spikey-I wouldn't fancy eating it, but Rommie thinks its **DELICIOUS!**





Every afternoon at about 4 o'clock I go for a walk over the farm where I live, and sometimes around the roads. I have been really loving the trees! I thought I would introduce you to some of my tree friends! Ha ha I can just hear some of you saying "Julie Wulie you can't have a tree as your friend, silly!" Well did you know trees give us oxygen-super important air so we can live! And guess what-we help them too because we breathe out a gas called carbon dioxide-and thats what the trees need to live-see we are helping each other out and I reckon that makes us friends, don't you?



This is one of the beautiful kauri trees growing in the bush where I live. Kauri trees are very special and can live a very long time! Tāne Mahuta is called the god of the forrest and its age is estimated to be between 1,250 and 2.500 years old! Thats a lot of birthdays! I'm not sure how this one would be, maybe a hundred years old-

what do you think?

The photo to the right is a close up pic of the tree trunk, it sheds its bark in little pieces and makes a beautiful pattern.



The photo on the left is off the kauri leaves that have fallen off the tree. They are hard like little chips of wood!



Another one of my favourite trees is the Cabbage Tree! The Maori name for this tree is ti kōuka. They grow all over the country but they prefer wet open areas like swamps! Did you know in times gone by Māori people used cabbage trees as food, fibre to make things with, and medicine! The root, stem and top are all edible and a good source of starch and sugar! Maybe that's why it's called a cabbage tree? What do you reckon?



What trees can you see growing near you? I would love to know! Maybe you might like to take a photo or draw a picture of them and tell me about what you have discovered? Lots of Love from me and my shadow! xoxox



Boeun Kim (Yunie) a month ago

Hi, Julie

I am so amazed by kauri tree which can live over 2500 years!!?? That's unbelievable.

Yunie misses kindy very much, so we went to on a scooter ride around kindy today. Kindy looks alright, Don't worry about here haha. Good night :-)

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Julie Killick a month ago

Dear Boeun! Thanks for your lovely response-so great to see a pic of kindy! Have you been to Waipoua forrest Northland? Thats where Tāne Mahuta lives-massive massive Kauri tree! Its well worth a visit-one day when we are out of lockdown! Thanks for keeping an eye on Kindy too-really appreciated. Apparently at some kindies people are taking shelter there! Oh my goodness! I guess it would be better than living under a bridge but it doesn't bear thinking about does it-I can;t imagine living rough! Have a great day and lots of love to Yunie xoxox

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Pavlina Steinerova (Zoe) a month ago

Julie, we love your posts! Beautiful horse, and the nature ♥ ♥

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Marie Greenbank (Jack ) a month ago

Such a beautiful place you live in Julie. What a refreshing soulful time you will be having. And fit as a fiddle! I hope your shadow is ok though....it looks like someone's pulling its leg!! Granny Marie.

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Julie Killick a month ago

Ha ha ha Marie! xoxox

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Clare Etherton a month ago

Julie wulie. This is one of the Reggio resources that Jo shared. It fits so perfectly with your fabulous tree observations. <https://www.reggiochildren.it/en/athomewiththereggioapproach/tree-are-family/>

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Colette Williams (Harrison (Harry)) a month ago

Hi Julie - we also have lots of cabbage trees in our garden. The boys spent the other day collecting some - making bunches - and we use these as fire lighters for our fire in winter!

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Julie Killick a month ago

Oh wow-Jack and Harry I love your crazy faces-you look very full of energy! Yes I can imagine Cabbage tree leaves would be great fire starters! Thanks for sharing the pics Collette! I hope everything is going well for you and your family xoxoxo

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Chloe Eatson (Jasper) a month ago

Enjoyed your update Julie. Rather envious you get to enjoy horse time each day 🐾  
Never knew you could do this with cabbage leaves either. Good idea 😊

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Colette Williams (Harrison (Harry)) a month ago

They make great fire lighters Chloe! I did use a 1/4 of a firelighter just to get it started but that and the leaves and kindling made our beat fire yet!

Another thing we did was turn it into a learning game. Jake practiced his bundling in 5's. And Harry and I practiced counting in Maori - I can now count from tahi- tekau (I hope I spelt what all correctly!) as a foreigner I have undertaken my learning during lockdown to learn more about the Maori culture!

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Colette Williams (Harrison (Harry)) a month ago

Gosh so many spelling mistakes in that post 🙄

Firstly JACK not jake

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Julie Killick a month ago

Don't worry Collette I didn't even notice-oh boy and I do typos all the time! xoxox

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Julie Schooler (Eloise) a month ago

We love trees and even went to see Tane Mahuta on our 5th wedding anniversary when Eloise was a baby. Get it? Fifth wedding anniversary gifts are supposed to be about wood. LOL.

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Julie Killick a month ago

ha ha ha !