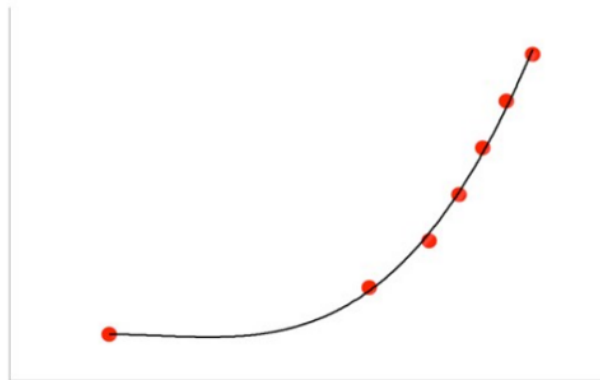




Zero waste's learning curve



versus



Whilst one curve flattens, another one rises

As the world works to flatten the curve of COVID 19, the zero-waste learning curve is rapidly on the rise. The curves need to be in opposition. Despite the lockdown, the day to day problems of waste continues. In this period of reflection, we want you to know that we are still working on the issues of reducing our landfill by providing alternatives to our waste on our beautiful island and planning ahead for how we can get everyone involve.

Let's start with those that matter most, our youth. On the 28th of April we had the launch of first zero waste video, ["Little things grow"](#) . This is just one thing that proves our point that from little things, big things grow. We are so proud of this production made by Cranky Curlew, our star mum, Molly Black, and of course our little people leading the way for us bigger islander people. If the link above doesn't work for you, simply go to our [Zero waste fb page](#) or our [Zero waste YouTube station](#) and have a look for yourself.



Zero waste community activists



On the last day of February, Penny Claringbull facilitated a group of 28 community people through a process of developing a management plan for our island. This group consisted of residents, experts, sponsors and stakeholders from Townsville and the island. Together we considered how we could draw on ideas and practices that will make our island a cleaner environment. We were taken on a journey of imagining, to short term planning, and then finally the immediate action from every attendee of the workshop. But more on that down the future.

This workshop was one of our last face to face gatherings before “social isolation” and “lockdown to our households”. Who would ever have thought this would happen? But, here we are, and although we have had to push a pause button on tours of [the Materials Recovery Centre](#) you can take a tour virtually.

Meanwhile the zero-waste management team continues to plan in the background. The group now works virtually using zoom, email and phones. COVID 19 despite its human devastation, has presented new ways of thinking that only a couple of months ago were unimaginable or at the very least weren't happening.

So, as we all sit at home, pondering our futures, let's add to our list of challenges. What we can do to help reduce our waste and consider how each and every one of us can contribute to a cleaner planet. Now is the time!

What you can do during the COVID 19 to make your contribution?

1. Follow our [facebook page](#) to see what is happening.
2. Check out our [New YouTube station](#) for our launch of, “Little things matter” and don't forget to subscribe.
3. Take a tour of [the plant](#) where all our recycles from our yellow lidded bins go.
4. Understand that one of the biggest issues in recycling is contamination. So please, check that you **clean before you bin**.
5. Consider **starting a garden** and compost your vegetable waste.
6. **Wash, dry and store** your soft plastic *until the pause button is lifted with COVID 19*.
7. **Wash, dry and store** your plastic lids *until the pause button is lifted with COVID 19*.
8. **Wash, dry and store** your toothbrushes *until the pause button is lifted with COVID 19*.

That would be a great start. Give yourself a score out of 8 and see for yourself if you feel you are a goer.

Remember big things grow from little things!