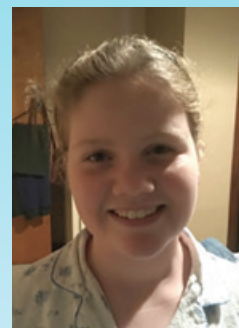


Ocean Action

An Elements Huia and Tiki Tim the Taniwha story



By **Neem** (age 13) from Southland – our Story Competition winner

One warm spring day, The Elements Huia was sitting on a piece of driftwood, floating out to sea. She looked up at the sun to check the time and huffed anxiously. She was waiting for her friend, Tiki Tim the Taniwha. They were meeting for lunch, and she was hungry. She waited for five more minutes, and then flew out to sea to search for her friend.

After a while, she came across a frothing mass in the water. She flew closer to investigate. As she got nearer she realised that it was Tiki Tim! He was trapped in an old fishing net. He thrashed about in the water, frothing it up like baking soda and vinegar. "Stop thrashing Tim!" cried the Huia. With soothing words, she managed to calm him. When he stopped thrashing, she managed to pull the net off him. Using her wind power, she blew the net far away and out of the ocean forever. "Thanks dear friend," said Tiki Tim. "Sorry I was late to lunch."

On the way back to their driftwood meeting spot, they both noticed that the water was full of plastic bottles, bags, wrappers, straws, and cans.

"We must do something about all this rubbish in our ocean," sighed The Elements Huia.

"I agree," replied Tiki Tim.

They thought sadly, in silence for a few moments. Then... "I've got it!" Tiki Tim exclaimed suddenly. "We shall all work together to clean the ocean out".

"Tiki Tim, that's a great idea," The Elements Huia cried excitedly.

They immediately set to work gathering all the creatures of the sea, from the biggest whale to the smallest fish. Once everyone was gathered at the meeting, Tiki Tim told them the plan. "We need to get rid of all the rubbish in the ocean. Bring all the rubbish you find back here and we'll get it done."

The creatures set to work gathering all the rubbish and bringing it back to the meeting place. The Elements Huia used her wind power to lift all the rubbish out and over the sea, and down into the human towns and cities.

Some very kind children gathered up the rubbish, and sorted it into what could and couldn't be recycled. They took all of it to their local landfill and recycling centre, and thought about how they could stop more rubbish getting into the ocean in the future too.

"Your plan was great Tim," the Huia said.

"But you still have to meet for lunch sometime," she chuckled.

