

## About Pātaka Kai: Chartwell Cooperating Church, Hamilton

Chartwell Cooperating Church in Hamilton is one of many churches which offers a pātaka kai (community food pantry) to its local community, joining in a nation-wide movement which offers surplus food to neighbourhoods, with the byline: *'Leave what you can, take what you need'*.

Church members at Chartwell Cooperating contribute to the pātaka kai with food and seedlings. Go Eco (previously known as the Waikato Environment Centre) supports, when possible with the provision of rescued food e.g bread and fruit. Local neighbours along with other churches and community support groups also leave donations of food, including harvested garden vegetables, on a regular basis.

While there is food left in the pātaka kai on a regular basis, there is always an increase in the amount of food left at times like Matariki (which has a particular emphasis on sharing food), the lead up to Christmas, and also during the autumn harvest time. It does require a small group to keep the pātaka kai looking clean with any unwanted food and boxes etc removed, but it is one simple way for the church to share its resources generously with the local community in a 'no questions asked' kind of way.



For more information about pātaka kai see the website: [www.patakai.co.nz](http://www.patakai.co.nz)

See from Neighbours Aotearoa:

**A 35-minute movie** where Candice Luke talks about why pātaka kai started along with quick tips for creating one in your community: [https://youtu.be/BxAmnZ\\_uJvo](https://youtu.be/BxAmnZ_uJvo)

Pictured: an example of a pātaka kai (not Chartwell Cooperating Church's).