

Hawke's Bay Museum & Art Gallery
Education Information Sheet

WHEELS

@ the Faraday Centre

1½ hours

\$4.10 per student

Suitable for Years 1 – 4

Available all year

KEY LEARNING AREAS

TECHNOLOGY: TECHNOLOGICAL SYSTEMS; CHARACTERISTICS OF TECHNOLOGY



Since wheels were first invented more than 5,000 years ago, people have found an amazing variety of uses for them. The Faraday Centre is jam-packed with machines and inventions that incorporate different sorts of wheels. Explore some of the countless ways we use wheels in our everyday lives.

HAWKE'S BAY **MUSEUM & ART GALLERY** NAPIER

PO Box 248 9 Herschell Street Napier Tel: 06 835 7781 Fax: 06 835 9249 Email: info@hbmag.co.nz

The Invention of the Wheel

Wheels have been around for at least five and a half thousand years. Nobody knows for sure who first invented them or where, but archaeologists know that wheels were being used around 3,500 BCE in Mesopotamia, a place now called Iraq. The first wheels may have been used to make pottery, so they were like turntables. Once people got the idea, it didn't take long for wheels to catch on.

The wheel at right is a grinding stone for sharpening knives.



Wheels for Transport

Many of the wheels on display at the Faraday Centre are used for transporting people or things. There are wheels on a farm cart, buggy, traction engine, pram, stretcher, wheelchair, shopping trolley, tractor, railway jigger and more.

These children are having a go at driving the jigger.



Wheels for Making Things Go

There are all sorts of different wheels inside the machines and appliances we use every day. Some of them have special names, such as pulley wheels, gears or flywheels.

This machine has two wheels with teeth. These types of wheels are called gears. When you turn the handle, you can see the gears go round.



Wheels for Energy

Some of the wheels on display at the Faraday Centre are for making different kinds of energy. There's a windmill that converts wind energy into mechanical energy, a waterwheel that converts the energy of moving water into mechanical energy, and a miniature turbine that uses the power of moving water to help generate electricity.

Big waterwheels like this one provided mechanical energy to run machines in mills or factories in the olden days before electricity was available. You can see this wheel come to life and start turning when the water flows.



For bookings and further information
go to www.hbmag.co.nz
email gcomley@hbmag.co.nz
or call Gaynor on 06 835 7781 x 721

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