



We have one copy of *Doug the Digger* to give away to the first person that writes in and tells us one of the names of Doug's friends.

Send your letter to: Rhiannon Boulton, Deals on Wheels, PO Box 7129, Wellesley St, Auckland 1.

For more information on Doug, write to Doug the Digger Fan Club, PO Box, Whangarei, or visit www.dougthedigger.co.nz

Something special

Doug the Digger - The Need For Good Teeth, (Having Fun Co Limited).

Who cares that this is a kid's book? The front cover was enough to draw me in and entertain me – and I learnt something as well.

The creation of Whangarei contractor Alistair McIntyre, this story about Doug the Digger is the first of what hopefully will become a kiwi institution.

The Need For Good Teeth tells the story of Doug the Digger and his friends Terry the Transporter, Mr Mac the operator and Poppa Ted, explaining the typical work carried out on a construction site. The book is lovingly illustrated by Bevan Fidler, who brings life and character into each of the machines. There is also a CD at the back of the book so kids

can follow the story with a narrator as well as be entertained by the catchy music – so catchy, in fact, that many delegates at the recent Contractors Federation conference were seen tapping their feet and doing a bit of a dance when it was played over the loud speakers.

Speaking to Alistair at the conference, I got an insight to the beginnings of Doug the Digger.

"I was never really good at school and pretty much started out in this industry from an early age," Alistair told me. "I saw this as an opportunity to teach kids about what we do, make it fun, and also to encourage them to learn as well."

Alistair is working in conjunction with InfraTrain New Zealand, visiting schools around the country, presenting his *Doug the Digger* book and teaching kids about the industry. In a short time, *Doug the Digger* has become extremely popular and even has its own fan club, with Alistair receiving many letters and drawings from children each week.

Move over Thomas the Tank Engine. Here comes Doug. ■