

OKOL

Onerahi Kids on Limestone



The school and students of Onerahi Primary School have a special link with Matakohē – Limestone Island. The material here is largely from the students themselves. Renay is the teacher coordinating OKOL for Onerahi Primary School.

In 2008, Rooms 13 and 14 went to Limestone Island to collect flaxseeds for our school to plant, here is their story:

"With our life jackets on, we travelled on the boat from Onerahi Beach. All of us had to check our bags for Argentine Ants so that ants don't get on the Island and kill any creatures. Luckily nobody had any. On the way over we saw the shipwreck round the other side of the Island. It's nearly all gone.



Limestone Island is just over there ...

When we got there we had some snack and Peter showed us the map of Limestone Island. He showed us a possum trap with the bait inside it and how it works. The possum trap broke a stick and we all got a huge fright! Peter also showed us the rat traps and the poison they put in them. The traps are for protecting the kiwis from predators on the island. We saw some kiwi footprints in the mud so it must be working.



More walking! Up and over we go.

Peter talked about the ruins of the cement works and what life was like on the Island all those years ago. Then we climbed the big hill and it was really steep! On some of the trees on that track there are weta houses for the wetas to live in. Over the other side was where we planted lots of native trees. Over 200 of them! It was muddy and hard work.



We are going to plant lots of trees, it's my turn to dig a hole ...

After washing our hands and eating our lunch Peter showed us a dead stoat that his wife had found in a trap. The stoat had really sharp little teeth. We could see the blood and the marks that the trap had made on it. We climbed back up the big hill to the top of the Island where we collected the flaxseeds for our school.

After an exhausting but awesome day, we headed back to the boat and back to school. We can't wait till we can go again!"

By Room 14 Onerahi School



Peter, the ranger, showed us a stoat he caught in a trap.