

OKOL

Onerahi Kids on Limestone



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

In term 2 of 2009, students had a competition to name one of the juvenile kiwi ready to be transferred from Matakohe - Limestone Island to a predator protected area at Whangarei Heads. This is the story of the winning student:

"Kia ora my name is Phoenix and on Sunday the 26th July I went to Limestone Island to catch a kiwi which I named Kahurangi.

There were three people coming to take me to the island on a boat. When I got to Limestone Island my aunty Teri and I put some gumboots on so we didn't get muddy feet and so our feet wouldn't get cold.

We went up the hill in a ute. We had to go through bushes just to get Kahurangi. When we found her she was really tired and when I went to hold her like a baby she fell asleep on me - it was cute.



Phoenix tries out the tracking gear.

We had to put her in a white cat box but she got scared of the brightness and she pooped. Next we went to catch another kiwi called Pam who was named after a cheerleader.



Phoenix holding kahurangi.

After that we went back to the house on Limestone Island to have a milo and my aunty was asking heaps of questions like how long are the mother kiwis pregnant? The answer to that is three months. She also asked if there was a school on Limestone Island and they said yes there used to be.

Then we went down to the truck and hopped in the back, and drove to the boat and hopped in ready to go back to the yacht club. When I got back Mrs Brown from our school was waiting there with my mum and my sister.

When my aunty and I got off the boat Mrs Brown was taking pictures of us. We brought the kiwis back with us so that people could see the kiwis.

The DOC lady who came with us took the kiwi out and gave her to me. She gave me Pam and Pam started falling asleep on me, it was so cute. The lady put Pam back in the box and got out Emma. She fell asleep on me too, just like Pam. Then she put Emma back in the box.

Then mum said we have to go. So we left with a great big smile knowing that Kahurangi was going to be alright."



Phoenix and aunty Teri return with Kahurangi from Limestone Island.



Phoenix with Kahurangi safely in the box beside her.