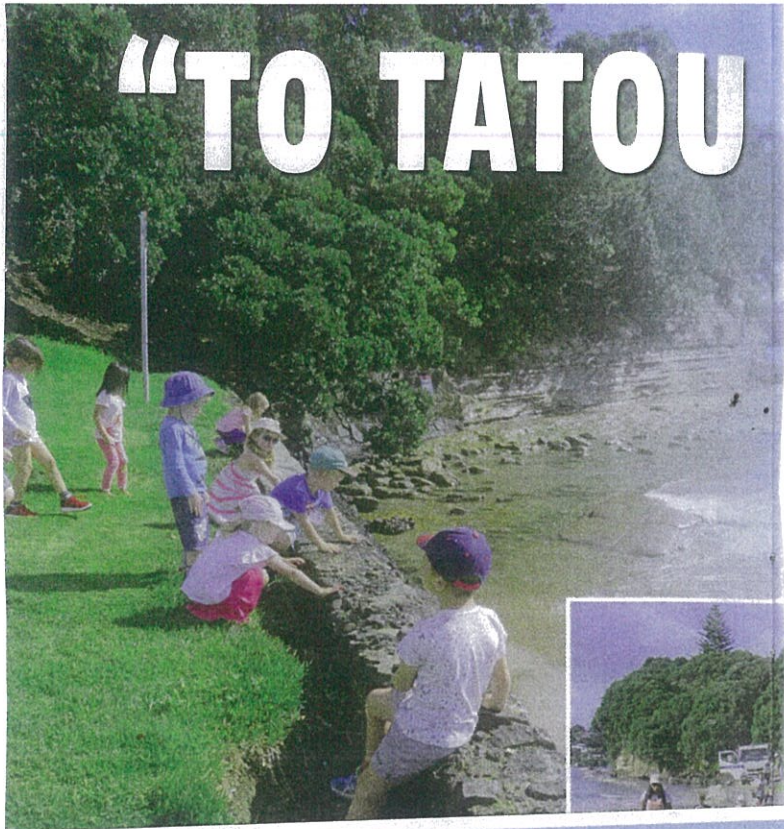


"TO TATOU



WAHI - OUR PLACE, OUR COMMUNITY"

Rangitoto Kindergarten put down roots in the local Mairangi Bay community in 1976 when a group of dedicated parents shared a vision of providing a wonderful learning environment for their children and future children. Over the years the kindergarten has continued to flourish and retain its connection with the local community.

With our recent "Bronze" Enviroschool" under our belt, we have focused on our community and what makes it special. As a kindergarten we have always been very passionate about providing and sustaining a very natural environment for the children. With a desire to foster a love of nature we encourage the children to take on a Kaitiakitanga / guardianship role through the care and protection of the natural world. We discussed with the children at length, how we could help to ensure the places special to us, such as "our beaches" and "natural spaces" remain the great places we all enjoy. So armed with maps, cameras, gloves, rubbish bags, magnifying glasses and note pads, 40 children and 20 parents/teachers embarked on an adventure that took us on a journey around Murrays Bay Beach, Mairangi Bay Beach and our local shops.



It was a wonderful adventure where we found both Taunga / treasures in nature and unfortunately some rubbish. Although we were happy to see that there was a lot less rubbish than previous excursions. The children expressed their concern and wondered why people didn't just put the rubbish in the bins provided. Micah told us "Tidy it up, no rubbish please - the fish and birds could eat it up and die," whilst

Cole reminded us "remember that they think everything is food, also if there is glass and you walk with bare feet, you could step on it, even in the water and it could cut you. Put rubbish in the rubbish bin!" There was a shared understanding that glass and plastic were not kind on either people or the creatures that inhabit the sea and beach and a wonderful sense of responsibility shared by the children to keep "our place" the beautiful place that it is. We think the community will be in good hands as these children grow up to become good global citizens who respect their environments.



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