

Excited and curious the Team Toroa tamariki lined up with their bags, footwear, kai and winning Awapuni School attitude. It was Thursday, the day to learn about looking after our environment! After we had checked that everyone was on the big bus we took off and headed towards Riverside Road. The bus was full of loud laughter. Suddenly we were on a winding gravel road, I could see the gushing Waimata River and lots of farmland. After what seemed like 30 minutes of driving we had arrived at Wild Lab-Tiaki Taiao.

We were greeted by Pete and Ellen who invited us to place our belongings at the Wild Lab Base. Suddenly I was lying on my back listening to birds chirping, trees swaying and the Waimata River gushing over the slippery boulders. After we had finished our peaceful mindfulness in nature we headed off for our hikoi towards Pa Hill. On the way we saw a jumping, giant weta in a dark box and some eggs in a trap to catch naughty

predators/pests. Before we arrived at the bottom of Pa Hill we played an educational but fun game of Pollution.

As Team Toroa walked up the steep hill I noticed lots of little 'maltesers' and soft bunny ear plants. Finally we made it to the top of Pa Hill and we sat in a large crater to catch our breath. From the top of Pa Hill we could see the Waimata River, the Motueka Maunga and the Wild Lab Base. Pete taught us an echo call which we all enjoyed yelling out towards the big hills and valleys that surrounded us. Suddenly we could see a colourful object dancing in the distance by the Wild Lab Base. No one knew what it was until Ellen told us that it was the Mayfly Guardian, we were all so excited about what we could see.

Rumble, rumble rumble my puku started grumbling, I was hungry! After I had eaten my delicious, tuna sandwich Pete told us about the Mayfly and other interesting

invertebrates. Then it was time to create our own amazing invertebrates and some tamariki even got to share their designs. Finally it was time to walk and start our adventure towards the gushing stream.