



The Great Rāhui of 2020



In the beginning of 2020 there was a virus called COVID-19 in many countries throughout the world. To keep the people in New Zealand safe, the Prime Minister, Jacinda Ardern, decided we needed to stay at home, and this helped to stop the virus from spreading in our country. This meant we did not go to kindergarten, we could not visit our family and friends, the play grounds were closed, and the shops were shut. This was called a lockdown; we learnt another word to explain this time, a rāhui. This can be explained as “honouring the earth, protecting the people & nourishing the spirit - all for the greater good” (author unknown). What a crazy time it was and thankfully by staying at home we kept many people safe. After seven weeks we were able to return to kindergarten and we were very pleased to be back together again, our kindergarten whānau was reunited! We shared our adventures that we enjoyed during the rāhui and we did what we do best, we played! Playing is learning at its best and we were all in our element back in our happy place! Here is a little snapshot into our adventures during the rāhui, you can find more in the community post section on Storypark.

I spent the rāhui in Waiuku with my Mum and Dad and a cat called Missy. This is the place where I was born and grew up, my mum and dad were born here too. So we have a strong connection to the place I affectionately call “The District!” Missy was quite mischievous and created a bit of excitement when she decided to catch a mouse and bring it inside. This caused a problem as the mouse was keen to hide in the house! Eventually the mouse decided to leave, however this did not stop Missy cat, she is a very good hunter and she continued to share her mouse friends with us. My mum and dad and I enjoyed many walks along the country roads and we loved being out and immersing ourselves in nature. My mum and I had fun cooking delicious treats, chocolate mousse, chocolate chip cookies and apple crumble were a few of the new recipes we tried. The rāhui was a time for reflection and I feel very thankful to have had this opportunity to slow down, to spend time with family (and even Missy) and to create memories that will be remembered fondly for many years to come.



During the rāhui, my wife my flatmate and myself were all sad that we could not go to the gym. So we decided to meet in the living room every afternoon to have an online training session together. This was lots of fun and kept us fit during the rāhui.



I love looking after indoor plants and enjoy watching them grow. I spent time re-planting my plants. I sometimes went for a walk in the morning to see the sunrise and in the evening to see the sunset with my wife. One night we noticed the moon was sooooo big and bright!!!! I went back home and searched on the internet, and found out that it was called a 'Super Moon'. Did you see it?



I also uploaded movies of myself playing waiata, which included the actions. This was one way I could stay connected with the children and families. The movies I created had 2 Yasu's, one playing the guitar and one doing the actions! I enjoyed watching the videos of the children practicing the songs and reading the comments of how they had enjoy my videos! Thank you for your feedback.

During rāhui, my husband Steve and I stayed at our little bach in Whangamata. This is a very special place to us and we were blessed with the most amazing weather, allowing us to go for beach walks and bike rides while keeping ourselves safe. We discovered parts of Whangamata we had never seen before and on our adventures we kept our eye out for the teddies in the windows of the houses.



We put our wee bear Hamish and Wilson in our window for children to see too. Steve and I also collected a variety of natural resources and I have brought these back to kindergarten for you all to use in your creations. I also tried out many different recipes and made some delicious Caramel slice, made my own bread rolls, and made a date and toffee dessert which was very yummy. It was a time when we relaxed, kept in contact with friends and family through Zoom, and reflected on how fortunate we are to live in NZ.



During the nationwide rāhui I stayed home in Auckland. This was a very strange time, but I made the most of it by exploring my neighbourhood (Pt Chevalier), and discovering many of the interesting walks that there are to do. Meola reef and the beach were places that I spent a lot of time walking around - being out in nature is certainly good for the soul! On one of the days I ventured a bit further out and discovered a waterfall called Oakley Creek falls, also known as Te Auaunga. Who knew we had a waterfall right in the middle of Auckland?! This was a very cool discovery. I also enjoyed doing lots of delicious cooking and baking during the rāhui. Apple pies, cauliflower pies, cheese muffins, and scones were regulars on my lockdown menu! During this time I really missed my two nephews, Luca and Arlo who live in Kerikeri. But isn't FaceTime amazing! I loved seeing their faces every week, even if it was on a screen. For me the rāhui was a chance to slow down and reconnect, and to remind myself of the importance of spending quality time with whānau and friends.



Teaching Team Reflection

Kindergarten is our happy place and we are so happy to be back at kindergarten with you! It is so exciting to have our kindergarten whānau back together again, we missed seeing you everyday and we missed the learning adventures that we share with you. Your well-being and sense of belonging at kindergarten is important to us and we intend to support you to settle back into life at kindergarten, to reconnect with your friends and teachers, and to provide a safe and happy place for you. We will notice your interests and the goals you set for yourself and we will be your trusted learning companions. We will support you to explore your ideas, extend your thinking and grow and strengthen valuable learning dispositions. We loved reading about the adventures you shared with your family during the rāhui and we have added these stories to your portfolio. We have also created a wall display for you to revisit and share your adventures with your kindergarten whānau.

Stay Safe, Be Kind

Whānau, it is not too late to share photos on Storypark or email them to us. This is a great way for children to share their stories with their friends and teachers. It also captures a moment in time that will always be a part of our history. In years to come your child will be telling their children and grandchildren about the great rāhui of 2020 and the adventures they enjoyed with their family, when everyone had to stay at home. Thank you for your support while we navigate the new normal of level 2, with the hope of moving to level 1 soon. We feel so blessed to be on this journey with you, our Roskill South Kindergarten community rocks! Arohanui xxxx

"Community does not necessarily mean living face-to-face with others; it means never losing the awareness that we are connected to each other." Parker J. Palmer