

Project island song



I WOKE UP SLOWLY BUT THEN SUDDENLY REMEMBERED WHAT DAY IT WAS. IT WAS PROJECT ISLAND SONG DAY! I DOUBLE CHECKED MY BACKPACK AND SHOOK OUT THE MOULDY APPLES, SAND, AND CUTLERY.

ARRIVING AT THE WHARF WE ALL GATHERED TO WAIT FOR THE BOAT. WHILE WE WAITED WE TOOK IT IN TURNS TO BRUSH OFF OUR SHOES AND SPRAY THEM, HELPED BY THE BIOSECURITY TEAM CHASE AND SAM.



BEFORE THE BOAT ARRIVED I INTERVIEWED CORA.

ROSE "WHAT ARE YOU MOST EXCITED TO SEE TODAY?"

CORA "PROBABLY THE WILDLIFE"

ROSE "NICE. AND DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE BIRD?"

CORA "NO BUT I DO REALLY WANT TO SEE THE TIEKE"

NEXT WE GOT ON THE BOAT. WHEN WE WERE ON THE BOAT WE SAID HI TO THE BOAT'S DRIVER, ZAQUAMAN. WE THEN GOT HANDED CLIPBOARDS WITH DIFFERENT BIRDS AND WE COULD PUT A TALLY MARK NEXT TO THE BIRDS WE SAW.



SOON THE COOL BOAT TRIP WAS OVER AND WE WERE AT THE ISLAND. ZAQUAMAN GOT A SPECIAL METAL RAMP SO WE DIDN'T GET OUR FEET WET. WHILST GETTING OFF WE THEN SAT DOWN AND HAD MORNING TEA WHILE KIRSTIE, WILLIAM, AND RAEWYN TOLD US MORE ABOUT THE ISLAND AND WHAT WE WERE GOING TO DO THAT DAY. THE ISLAND WE WERE VISITING THAT DAY WAS CALLED MOTUROA AND HAD BEEN PEST FREE FOR 15 YEARS.



WHILE WE WERE EATING I INTERVIEWED MADDIE.

ROSE "WHAT BIRD ARE YOU MOST EXCITED TO SEE TODAY?"

MADDIE "THE WHITEHEAD PROBABLY."

ROSE "WHY ARE YOU MOST EXCITED TO SEE THE WHITEHEAD?"

MADDIE "BECAUSE I'VE NEVER SEEN IT BEFORE."

WHEN WE WERE DONE HAVING MORNING TEA WILLIAM TOLD US WE WERE GOING TO GO ON A WALK THROUGH THE NATIVE BUSH.

WHILE WE WALKED WE KEPT AN EYE OUT FOR BIRDS. WE SAW LOTS OF COMMON BIRDS LIKE THE PIWAKAWAKA AND THE TUI, BUT WE ALSO SAW LOADS OF KAKARIKIS AND TIEKES. WE SAW SOME WHITEHEADS. WE EVEN SAW A COUPLE OF TOUTOUWAI. SOON WE CAME TO THE END OF THE WALK, WHICH WAS ALSO WHERE SOME WETAPUNGA HAD BEEN RELEASED A WHILE AGO, AND WE CHECKED THE LITTLE BAMBOO PIECES THEY HAD BEEN RELEASED FROM TO SEE IF THEY WERE THERE. WHILE WE WALKED BACK WE LOOKED FOR TREES LIKE MANUKA, KANUKA, AND KOWHAI.



WHEN WE GOT BACK IT STARTED RAINING BUT LUCKILY ZAQUAMAN WAS THERE WITH HIS BOAT SO WE COULD STAY DRY.

WHILE WE HAD LUNCH I INTERVIEWED WILLIAM.

ROSE "HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN DOING THIS JOB?"

WILLIAM " I'VE DONE 6 YEARS TEACHING BUT BEEN IN THE PROGRAM FOR ABOUT 15 YEARS."

ROSE "HAVE YOU GOT A FAVORITE ANIMAL ON THE ISLAND?"

WILLIAM "I QUITE LIKE THE CHEEKINESS OF THE TIEKE."

ROSE "WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE PART OF THIS JOB?"

WILLIAM "THE EXCITEMENT OF PEOPLE LOOKING FOR BIRDS."

AFTER THAT I INTERVIEWED ZAQUAMAN.

ROSE "HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN DOING THIS JOB?"

ZAQUAMAN "2 SUMMERS."

ROSE "WHAT'S YOUR LEAST FAVORITE PART OF THIS JOB?"

ZAQUAMAN "FIXING THE BOAT"

ROSE "WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE PART OF THIS JOB?"

ZAQUAMAN "MAKING PEOPLE LAUGH"

AFTER THAT I REALLY QUICKLY INTERVIEWED LUKE.

ROSE "WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE BIRD YOU'VE SEEN TODAY?"

LUKE "THE WHITEHEAD."

SOON THE RAIN HAD STOPPED AND IT WAS TIME FOR OUR NEXT ACTIVITY. WE ALL GATHERED ON A TARP UNDER A TREE AND CURSTY TOLD US THAT WE WERE GOING TO MAKE TRAPS TO CATCH PESTS LIKE MICE AND RATS THAT EAT BIRD EGGS.

WE ALL GOT TO WORK USING MATERIALS FROM FLATPACKS THE MAN SHED HAD KINDLY MADE FOR US. WHEN WE WERE DONE WE WROTE OUR NAMES, THE DATE, AND *project island song* ON THEM. WHEN WE WERE FINISHED WE DID A TREASURE HUNT TO FIND THE NAME OF A NATIVE BIRD.

AT THE END OF THE DAY WE ALL BOARDED THE BOAT ONCE AGAIN AND HEADED FOR HOME. THANK YOU PROJECT ISLAND SONG FOR AN AMAZING DAY!



THANK YOU TO WILLIAM, KIRSTIE, RAEWYN AND ZQUAMAN FOR AN AWESOME DAY, IT WAS UNFORGETTABLE. THANK YOU ALSO TO BES FOR ARRANGING EVERYTHING FOR OUR GROUP AND TO THE PARENTS WHO CAME TO HELP.

THANKS TO WILLIAM, ZQUAMAN, CORA, MADDIE AND LUKE FOR AGREEING TO BE INTERVIEWED.

AND A BIG SHOUT OUT TO THE COOL SPONSORS WHO MAKE THIS POSSIBLE, JOYCE FISHER CHARITABLE TRUST, KERIKERI MEN'S SHED, MURRY AND THE TEAM AT ITM BAY OF ISLANDS, RODNEY AND THE TEAM AT STEEL AND TUBE AND ISLAND GETAWAY AND OUR SKIPPER ZAC.

By Rose Bowden-Murrells

For more information about this brilliant programme go to:

<https://projectislandsong.co.nz/>