



Connecting people: Local LEARNZ field trip teacher Andrew Penny, centre, holds the phone up for Goat Island marine expert Tony Enderby while Jenny Enderby holds onto Rangiora Borough School ambassador Ethan, left.

Real learning

Technology has turned three classrooms at Rangiora Borough School into marine reserves. While the school could not take the students to Goat Island marine reserve to see for themselves the work that is involved in safeguarding New Zealand's marine life, it could bring the reserve to the school on Wednesday courtesy of a virtual field trip through the LEARNZ programme.

By LAURA MELVILLE

On the other end of the link-up was Ashley Downs resident Andrew Penny, who had flown to the North Island to facilitate the virtual field trip with marine experts at the reserve. Mr Penny, who is a LEARNZ field trip teacher, said that the programme was about connecting students with real people in real situations in the real world, rather than through text books. Rangiora Borough School joined Ashburton Borough School for the trip, which was conducted via audio conference linked to the LEARNZ website. Year 3 and 4 teacher Sandra Harnett said that the term's inquiry learning was around an Alive to Survive theme and the unit was focusing on the sea. "I thought, 'wow, this will fit in really well', with the focus on how sea creatures survive and what the dangers are regarding the environmental aspect, and that is what the marine reserve is about." Interactive white boards meant students were not crowding around a laptop but could participate with a large screen, she added. Principal Alan Sutton said the LEARNZ programme was "one of the most marvellous things I've seen for years" – and it cost the school nothing. "It is a free, online service that schools can enrol in."

It is the second year that the school had been involved with the programme and Mr Sutton said it was used around whatever inquiry learning the students were engaged in. As a learning tool, the programme was excellent in engaging kids in learning, especially in the science area, Mr Sutton added. Mr Penny first became aware of the programme as a teacher while attending an education conference in 2007. "I began using the programme in 2008 when I was teaching and found real value with the way the students enjoyed their learning with it. I jumped at the opportunity to become a LEARNZ field trip teacher."



Question time: Rangiora Borough student Joshua Lees, left, talks to marine experts on Goat Island during a Learnz virtual field trip. Far left, Rangiora Borough School student Claudia Knight writes up answers to questions students put to marine experts on Goat Island.

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12th ANNUAL



Rangiora - Kaiapoi Fun Run

SUNDAY 14 MARCH 2010

10.6km Run & Walk
Starting at 9.30am

START: Southbrook Sports Centre
FINISH: Kaiapoi Borough School
PRIZE GIVING: 12 midday

- Trophies
- Lucky Number
- Spot Prizes
- Major Spot Prize:
donated by Nicholls 100%

- Entertainment
- Amusements
- Food & Drinks

- Wear appropriate clothing to suit the weather conditions
- Take care on the roads
- St Johns Ambulance will be in attendance

A shuttle bus will leave Kaiapoi for the start from 8.15 to 9.15

NB: No Dogs, Bicycles or Rollerblades permitted

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for the benefit of Disadvantaged children in the Waimakariri District.



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