

1. Slip sliding away!



Photos: Jeremy Rolfe.

1. Slip, sliding away!

From the car park you have a 3 km walk to the seal colony at Turakirae. There are many interesting land formations to study along the way. As you walk along the coast you will cross the Orongorongo River.

- Look up into the Orongorongo Valley. You will see the Rimutaka Ranges scarred by landslides and the river full of coarse gravel.
- Long ago the hills would have been covered by forest but people cleared the forest to try and farm the land. Think of two reasons why farming was unsuccessful on this land?

- There is a fault-line along the river valley, strong winds blow through from Cook Strait and rocks have become fragile from past earth movements.

Explain how each of these factors affect this environment. What is protecting the hills from erosion in some areas?

- Look for signs of people's impact on this fragile coastal environment—in earlier times and recently. List any signs you see.
- Stop and listen to the sounds of the coast. Ask one person in your group to count to count slowly to 30 while the rest of you close your eyes and listen carefully. When the time is up, quickly record all the sounds you heard. Add to this list as you continue your walk. You may wish to make a list of the smells of the coast as well.

Toitu he kainga,
whatungarongaro he
tangata = The land still
remains when the people
have disappeared.

