

Dear Our Papatūānuku,

Aotearoa, the land of the long white cloud, rolling green hills, majestic mountains, breathtaking fjords, a small tiny nation with vibrant people in the pacific, that's what we are. We engage and connect with each other and the whenua. We have barbecues, we love hiking, bush walking, biking, we hang out at beaches, have a hangi, and if nothing else then we have picnics at our maungas. We go to our moana, springs and freshwater lakes. That's our nation, our lifestyle, our culture. But slowly this is collapsing. Aotearoa's sinking and the sea is quietly rising around us.

Currently in Aotearoa we generate **17.49 million tonnes** of waste per year, of which an estimated **12.59 million tonnes** are sent to landfill. So we must urgently help out at local cleanups, reuse more often, plant more trees (like our very own Remuera Intermediate Kaitiaki Students), and be sustainable. Solar power, wind power, off the grid... We have all these options waiting at our fingertips.

Living off the grid has multiple benefits. You aren't consuming as much fossil fuels and this is also contributing to stopping climate change. When fossil fuels are burned they release carbon dioxide (a greenhouse gas) into the air. Greenhouse gases trap heat in our atmosphere, causing global warming. So try and live sustainably and recycle, because this'll slowly stop global warming and climate change.

Nga Mihi,
A Kiwi Kid