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**STOP, LOOK, LISTEN:** Otorohanga Police Constable Brenton Irwin makes sure Te Wharekura o Maniapoto students know how to safely cross train tracks in Te Kuiti.

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# Children taught to stop, look & listen

STOP, look and listen.

Te Wharekura o Maniapoto students on Tuesday were reminded of these three simple words in a 'Train Track Awareness' initiative led by Otorohanga Police Constable Brenton Irwin.

The initiative was prompted by the death of Ngaremu Teremoe King after he was hit by a freight train on October 26. (*Waitomo News*, October 30)

In an effort to make Te Kuiti residents more careful, especially the youngsters who often walk to school or bus stops, Mr Irwin says people need to remember the basics.

Students, accompanied by teachers and parents, lined up on the Awakino Rd side of the railway road crossing at the south end of Rora St. Mr Irwin asked what every person should do before crossing, which the children replied with a resounding "look left and then right" before crossing.

"We showed the children where the appropriate crossings are for the train tracks and where to cross the road safely," he says.

"If the bells sound or the barrier comes down, they know not to cross because they can't judge how fast the train is moving.

"It is important that children are aware of railway line safety, so it was good to see (Te Wharekura o Maniapoto) students confirming what they already knew."

**IMPORTANT**

Teacher Sonny Tahī says after losing his cousin Ngaremu in last month's accident it is important for the students to be mindful of where, when and how to cross railway lines.

"Our students catch the bus to school from outside the Te Kuiti i-SITE and the road (Awakino Rd) runs across the railway line," he says.

"We want to make sure the kids are aware of how to cross the railway line and roads safely, where the appropriate crossings are, and how to use them.

"People just need to think, twice, thrice even, before they do anything regarding the railway line. "It could save their life."



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