

A way of living with New Zealand wildlife

When I was growing up in Eastbourne, my mother was the person to whom the community brought injured native birds. It was thanks to her passion that I ended up with the unenviable (at the time) nickname of 'Owl', but which later evolved to 'Hoot' as the years progressed.

Ruru, as we called our morepork, lived on the loom in the sitting room while she repaired her broken wing. I recall that Ruru wore a pale blue sock around her body to keep the wing constricted. We also bred white mice in the garage, which had been initially supplied to us by the Wellington Zoo. At the same time, we also became most proficient at hunting katydids in the evenings.

Protecting our native birds

In Tauranga, the privilege of rehabilitating the wildlife falls onto the shoulders of the Animal Rescue & Rehabilitation Centre (ARRC) Wildlife Trust based at Holistic Vets in Fraser Street.

ARRC have identified ten main causes of injury or death to our native birds and have completed six of ten beautifully written and illustrated books for children, to highlight the common causes and prevention of these contributors to the decline in our native bird species.



Reilly M., Ella H. and Danielle R. receive their prizes from ARRC Director, Dr. Liza Schneider.

Children competition winners

Three lucky local children recently entered an ARRC creative competition held exclusively through Issue 2 of *Tai Whakarara* – The WHOMP community magazine.

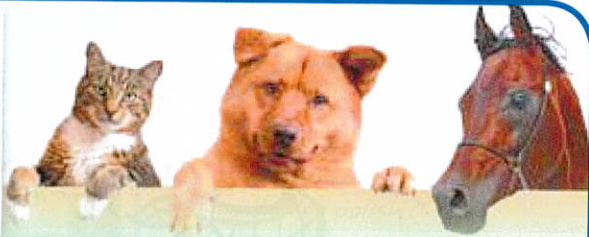
We are delighted to declare Danielle, Ella and Reilly winners for their projects and drawings about our native birds. Each child received the prize of the first four copies of the ARRC children book series.

Stepping up to the game

Taking steps to reduce potential human hazards to our native wildlife is something well within our reach as a society, equal to recycling and waste management. With luck or good planning, a national retail chain will grasp the benefits to align with ARRC and make these booklets available to all New Zealanders, as a societal approach to reverse the steady decline of our native bird populations. For further information visit www.arrc.org.nz.

By Antoon Moonen





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