

Invaluable for forest regeneration

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Kereru, New Zealand's native wood pigeon, have exquisite iridescent green and bronze feathers, with a white vest, and may be found in most lowland native forests across the country.

Kereru are regularly brought into ARRC with injuries suffered flying into windows.

This includes broken wings and collar bones. Occasionally people bring in orphaned juveniles. Kereru are generally hardy and usually make good recoveries and can be returned to the wild.

They eat leaves, buds, flowers and fruits and are the only

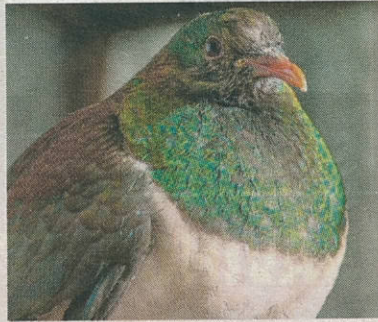


Photo: MATT LEAMY PHOTOGRAPHY

disperser of large fruits, such as the karaka and taraire, making them an invaluable link for the regeneration of our native forests.

Kereru populations in some areas are under threat due to habitat loss, hunting and

predators such as rats, stoats, cats and possums that may eat their young or eggs. Possums also compete for food and devastate forests by consuming new shoots.

Kereru are a protected species and may not be hunted.

How you can help

- Help control predators by looking after your cat responsibly — feed good quality food, desex and ideally keep them at home
- Plant native trees for kereru to feed on, such as miro, titoki, tawa, fuchsia, kōwhai, five-finger, pate, pigeonwood, taraire, puriri, wineberry and tree lucerne
- Don't hunt kereru.

■ If you find an injured bird, call ARRC 578 7054.