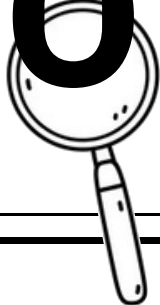
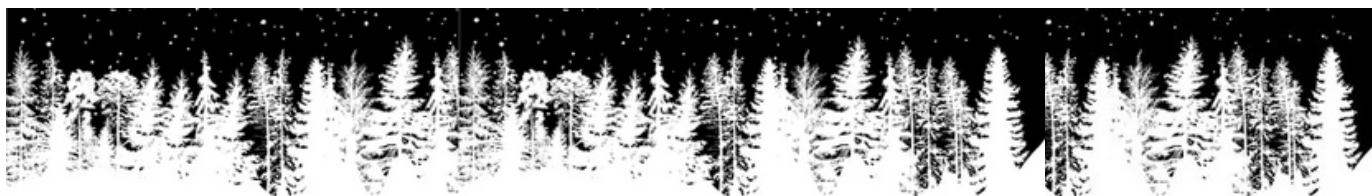


THE WAIMĀRAMA KIDS CHRONICLE



NIGHT IN THE NGĀHERE

JOIN US ON A JOURNEY INTO THE SANCTUARY UNDER THE LIGHT OF THE MOON



Have you ever been on a night walk in nature? Join me as we step into the sanctuary under the light of the moon...

The birds that filled the forest with song and movement through the day have tucked up somewhere safe for the night, and the creatures that inhabit the darker hours stretch and begin to stir... another night is a foot and it is time to wake. Tuatara steps out of her burrow, using her senses of smell, hearing and sight to assess her environment. She barely seems to move, staying so still that her prey crawls right up to her. Then... SNAP! But this time, tuatara was not quite quick enough. Wētā jumps away, heading further up a young Māhoe tree to feast on some leaves.

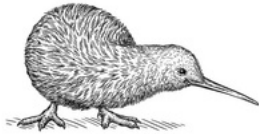
Watching from further up in the forest canopy, ruru (Morepork) sits quietly, looking around with his large eyes and listening for sounds in the

night. The flash of a moth fluttering through the forest is enough for ruru to launch silently from his perch, hunting with speed and stealth.

Stars shine above, but they also seem to shine from the forest itself... the titiwai/ Glow worms are shining bright on this cold night, hoping to lure in a tasty insect to get caught on their sticky fishing lines.

Down on the forest floor there is a sudden rustle, followed by a high pitched whistle, kiwi has climbed out of his burrow and is calling out his greeting to the night time forest. Rain fell during the day, bringing tasty earthworms close to the surface of the forest floor. Hunting will be good for this young kiwi tonight, and he is keen to get started.

MEET SOME OF OUR NOCTURNAL CREATURES WITHIN THE SANCTUARY...



KIWI PUKUPUKU/ LITTLE SPOTTED KIWI

Kiwi pukupuku spend the night searching for worms, grubs, berries, and other tasty morsels to eat. They rely on their sense of smell and touch to find their way around, as their vision isn't very good.



WĒTĀ

Wētā are one of our most iconic insects.

Growing as large as 10cm, they are mostly herbivorous, meaning they eat plants. There are more than 100 species of wētā in New Zealand. We mostly have tree wētā within the sanctuary.



RURU/ MOREPORK

Have you ever heard the haunting call of the ruru before? It helps us to understand why it got the name 'More-pork'! Ruru, like other owls, have very large eyes and excellent hearing, which makes them able to hunt their prey (large insects, spiders, small birds and mammals) on even the darkest nights.



TITIWAI/ GLOW WORMS

Our 'stars' of the nighttime forest are our little glow worms, shining bright all night long to attract their prey (small insects) to their sticky fishing lines.

I WONDER...?

THINK LIKE A SCIENTIST... WHAT DO YOU WONDER?

- Why are some animals nocturnal while others are diurnal (active in the day), or even crepuscular (active at dawn and dusk)?
- What special senses do nocturnal animals use to find food and avoid predators?
- How do human activities affect nocturnal animals?

JUNIOR RANGERS IN ACTION!

Grab your whānau, dress up warm, strap on a head torch, and head out on a night time walk! Visit a forest or another wild area and be sure to stick to the trail. Be sure to stop and use all of your senses... if you're feeling extra brave you could turn off your torch and see what you notice in the dark.

Or even better... come on a guided night time walk in the sanctuary! These run through the winter months, and are a chance to see and hear all the creatures we've met in this issue.

Send through photos of your nocturnal adventures to info@brooksanctuary.org.nz