

BEST NZ BOOKS FOR YOUNG READERS 2022



MEET GEORGIE, TAMSYN AND SAMUEL, OUR CHILDREN'S BOOK AWARDS AMBASSADORS

Our awards ambassadors for 2022 are all avid readers who attend West End School/Te Kura o Urumutu in Palmerston North.

Georgie, age 10, likes to read in a quiet, safe place, in a corner or on a beanbag in a library. She thinks reading is important because it builds knowledge, and it can help you heal, and develop your imagination. She dreams of writing a book about a boy who finds an abandoned robot and repairs it, and they become friends

Tamsyn, age 10, loves graphic novels, comics, fantasy and adventure or action novels. Her favourite author is JK Rowling. A comfy bed is one of her best reading spots. She'd like to write a book one day about kids who go on big adventures.

Samuel's favourite books are comics and graphic novels. He also likes to read in a quiet corner, and thinks reading is important because it keeps you learning.



KIA ORA TAMARIKI!

IF YOU'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR INSPIRATION FOR YOUR NEXT READ, YOU WILL FIND IT WITHIN THE PAGES OF THIS BOOKLET. THE JUDGES OF THE **2022 NEW ZEALAND BOOK AWARDS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS** HAVE CHOSEN 28 AMAZING FINALIST BOOKS THAT WILL EXPAND YOUR IMAGINATION AND KNOWLEDGE.

SO SEEK THEM OUT IN YOUR FAVOURITE BOOKSHOP, LOCAL LIBRARY, OR AT YOUR SCHOOL, **AND GET READING!** THESE BOOKS HAVE BEEN CREATED BY TALENTED NEW ZEALAND AUTHORS AND ILLUSTRATORS FOR **KEEN READERS JUST LIKE YOU.**

PICTURE BOOK AWARD

WORDPLAY, ANIMAL MISCHIEF, FIENDISH WHEKE, AND HAKA-CRAZY NANAS



BUMBLEBEE GRUMBLEBEE

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY DAVID ELLIOT
PUBLISHED BY GECKO PRESS, \$16.99 HB

In this deceptively simple board book with irresistibly cute illustrations and a surprisingly satisfying resolution, everyday moments of childish innocence are brought to mischievous life with wordplay to delight children and adults alike. *Bumblebee Grumblebee* is a warm, captivating story that will win over the hearts and imagination of the whole family.

LION GUARDS THE CAKE

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY RUTH PAUL
PUBLISHED BY SCHOLASTIC NEW ZEALAND, \$19.99 PB

Mischief meets imagination in this quirky tale of a proud lion going beyond the call of duty to guard the family cake ... with questionable motives, and even more questionable success. *Lion Guards the Cake* is a delightful picture book that ticks all the boxes, with a cohesive storyline, flawless rhyme and whimsical illustrations.



MY CAT CAN SEE GHOSTS

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY EMILY JOE
PUBLISHED BY BEATNIK PUBLISHING, \$30.00 HB

In this fresh, funny and imaginative story full of feline personality, the vagaries of cat behaviour are shown in bold illustrations that leap, bound and bristle across pages, while creative placement of the simple rhyming text adds a very cat-like element of chaos. *My Cat Can See Ghosts* will appeal to cat lovers, and the cat wary, alike.

THE EIGHT GIFTS OF TE WHEKE

BY STEPH MATUKU, ILLUSTRATED BY LAYA MUTTON-ROGERS
PUBLISHED BY HUIA PUBLISHERS, \$20.00 PB

The Eight Gifts of Te Wheke integrates te ao Māori with metaphorical links to pūrākau of Kupe's own battle with an octopus. The fluid text and luscious illustrations crammed with idiosyncratic detail draw readers into this darkly engaging parable – as effortlessly as Te Wheke drags Tamati's sister Aria beneath the waves.



THE GREATEST HAKA FESTIVAL ON EARTH

BY PANIA TAHAU-HODGES, ILLUSTRATED BY STORY HEMI-MOREHOUSE
PUBLISHED BY HUIA PUBLISHERS, \$22.00 PB

Readers are invited to join haka-freak Nan and her extended whānau as they experience the sensory overload of Te Matatini. A vibrant, rambunctious joy of a book, *The Greatest Haka Festival on Earth* captures the craziness of the festival, with brightly detailed illustrations, wry humour, a hilarious glossary and mischievous twins to keep readers on their toes.



AMORANGI AND MILLIE'S TRIP THROUGH TIME

BY LAUREN KEENAN
PUBLISHED BY HUIA PUBLISHERS, \$26.00 PB

Amorangi and Millie travel back in time to find their mum, who is trapped in the past. After scary experiences with a hōkioi and a volcanic eruption, they learn what they must do. But time is running out. Where or when is Mum? An exciting time-travel adventure, emphasising the importance of whānau, whakapapa, and understanding New Zealand's past.

SPARK HUNTER

BY SONYA WILSON
PUBLISHED BY THE CUBA PRESS, \$25.00 PB

Following mysterious moving lights, Nissa strays from her school camp in the Fiordland bush. As she is drawn into another realm, a vast search for her begins. She has been chosen for an important mission in a world of ancient creatures that need help. *Spark Hunter* is a fast-moving, original and informative book that deals with themes of conservation and courage.



THE MEMORY THIEF

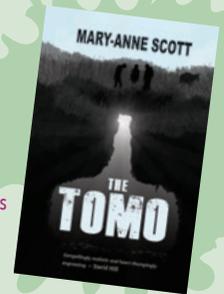
BY LEONIE AGNEW
PUBLISHED BY PUFFIN, PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE, \$19.99 PB

One night in a city garden, a girl meets a troll. He'd like a friend and she'd like help, so they make a deal that changes both their lives. This is an imaginative, polished and thought-provoking novel, with important themes of family, memories, and being careful what you wish for – and a nail-biting and unexpected conclusion.

THE TOMO

BY MARY-ANNE SCOTT
PUBLISHED BY ONETREE HOUSE, \$24.00 PB

When Phil has to stay on a farm while his dad receives treatment, he is thankful that he can take his dad's beloved dog Blue with him. Phil's boss dismisses both Phil and Blue as useless, and when they get a chance to prove themselves, disaster strikes: Blue plunges into the Tomo. Tension rises along with the danger, creating a gripping page-turner.



THE UPRISING: THE MAPMAKERS IN CRUXCIA

BY EIRLYS HUNTER, ILLUSTRATED BY KIRSTEN SLADE
PUBLISHED BY GECKO PRESS, \$22.99 PB

As they search for their father, the Santander siblings are led to the land of Cruxcia, which holds clues but is terribly dangerous. Using their unique mapmaking skills, the Santanders help kick off a rebellion against a tyrant and rescue their father. A rollicking read, with a message that great things can be achieved when working together.

JUNIOR FICTION
WRIGHT FAMILY FOUNDATION
ESTHER GLEN AWARD
TIME-TRAVEL, FOREST
ADVENTURE, STOLEN MEMORIES,
PROVING COURAGE, AND
MAPPING SKILLS

YOUNG ADULT FICTION AWARD

WAR CRAFT, PIONEERING SPIRIT, SPY GAMES, MAKING MUSIC, AND A DEADLY VIRUS



COASTWATCHER

BY DAVID HILL
PUBLISHED BY PUFFIN, PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE, \$19.99 PB

It's 1943 and Frank Benson has joined the war effort in Operation Pacific, spying on the Japanese from the coastlines of the Solomon Islands. When he and his friends find themselves trapped in the jungle, Frank must act quickly to stay hidden, stay silent, and stay alive. David Hill's tight and accomplished writing creates a tense story about a moment in history not often recounted.

DISPLACED

BY CRISTINA SANDERS
PUBLISHED BY WALKER BOOKS AUSTRALIA, \$21.99 PB

Eloise and her family leave their home in Cornwall for 1870s colonial New Zealand, and what they find there is struggle far greater than they could have imagined. As Eloise fights to keep her family together, she battles intolerance and the restrictions placed on women's lives. *Displaced* is a moving, beautifully written story of courage, family and first love.



KATIPO JOE: WOLF'S LAIR

BY BRIAN FALKNER
PUBLISHED BY SCHOLASTIC NEW ZEALAND, \$19.99 PB

Kiwi spy 'Katipo' Joe St George goes undercover in the heart of the Nazi spider web, where he must use everything he has to fool those close to Hitler if he is to complete his mission and bring down the monster. It's a fast-paced story, packed with action, humanity, and the cruel devastation of war. Readers won't be able to put the book down.



LEARNING TO LOVE BLUE

BY SARADHA KOIRALA
PUBLISHED BY RECORD PRESS, \$25.00 PB

Paige has left school, her band, her family and Wellington behind to strike out alone in the Melbourne music scene. She's following in the footsteps of her musical heroes, and it helps that her high school crush Spike lives in Melbourne – but will she fit into his new life? This is a joyous, relatable story of finding independence in a new city.



VIOLET BLACK

BY EILEEN MERRIMAN
PUBLISHED BY PENGUIN, PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE, \$19.99 PB

After being struck down with deadly M-fever, Violet emerges from a coma and discovers she has a strange connection with a fellow patient, Ethan. When new doctors appear to run more tests, Violet and Ethan realise they have to fight more than the virus. The first book in a gripping trilogy, *Violet Black* is a high-octane ride of survival and betrayal.



NON-FICTION ELSIE LOCKE AWARD

MĀORI GODS, AWESOME ART, BIG FEELINGS, TRAILBLAZERS, AND AMAZING ARACHNIDS



ATUA: MĀORI GODS AND HEROES

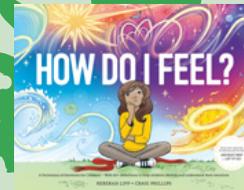
WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY GAVIN BISHOP
PUBLISHED BY PUFFIN, PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE, \$40.00 HB

Told from a distinctly Māori worldview, this book gives familiar and not-so-familiar characters a fresh, contemporary voice that will resonate with readers. With stunning production values that perfectly complement and enhance the powerfully emotive illustrations, *Atua* is an instant classic, a 'must have' for every New Zealand household, a taonga.

DRAW SOME AWESOME

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY DONOVAN BIXLEY
PUBLISHED BY UPSTART PRESS, \$29.99 PB

Draw Some Awesome takes readers on a visually stimulating, constantly amusing and comprehensively informative journey across the drawing galaxy. From first squiggles to using perspective and shading, step by step, shape by shape, with an emphasis on having fun, this is an accessible and inspirational guide for kids of all abilities.



HOW DO I FEEL? A DICTIONARY OF EMOTIONS FOR CHILDREN

WRITTEN BY REBEKAH LIPP, ILLUSTRATED BY CRAIG PHILLIPS
PUBLISHED BY WILDLING BOOKS, \$39.95 HB

This book describes over 60 emotions in a clear and relatable way, using simple, vivid illustrations. Children will recognise themselves, and will learn how to identify and understand their emotions. Importantly, emotions aren't presented as being good or bad in themselves – rather they're simply part of growing up, creating opportunities to learn and grow.

KIA KAHA: A STORYBOOK OF MĀORI WHO CHANGED THE WORLD

WRITTEN BY STACEY MORRISON AND JEREMY SHERLOCK
PUBLISHED BY PUFFIN, PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE, \$45.00 HB

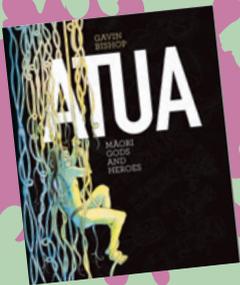
Kia Kaha is a powerful collection of stories of Māori trailblazers from every walk of life and generation, whose insightful short biographies present snapshots of the lives of Māori who have achieved remarkable feats. This is a celebration of Māoritanga, which will offer both inspiration and affirmation to the tamariki and rangatahi of Aotearoa.



WHY IS THAT SPIDER DANCING?

WRITTEN BY SIMON POLLARD AND PHIL SIRVID
PUBLISHED BY TE PAPA PRESS, \$29.99 PB

This fun, comprehensive and revealing book about Aotearoa's amazing eight-legged marvels will be a source of wonder for young arachno-lovers. With clear, easy to understand text, stunning close-up photos, and a helpful glossary that doesn't take itself too seriously, *Why is That Spider Dancing?* will weave a web of fascination around readers.



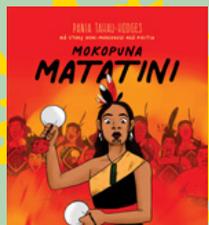
ATUA: MĀORI GODS AND HEROES
 WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY GAVIN BISHOP
 PUBLISHED BY PUFFIN, PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE, \$40.00 HB

Atua: Māori Gods and Heroes is an invitation to learn more about te ao Māori, the Māori world, with illustrations that not only stimulate the eyes but also the emotions of people who choose to enter this world. The depictions of atua have a distinct authenticity and a world of discovery awaits the reader.

MOKOPUNA MATATINI

BY PANIA TAHAU-HODGES, ILLUSTRATED BY STORY HEMI-MOREHOUSE
 PUBLISHED BY HUIA PUBLISHERS, \$22.00 PB

Nau mai ki taku whare karioi! Welcome to the House of Entertainment! The magic of kapa haka is experienced through the eyes of a whānau Māori and colour is used fiercely and vibrantly to capture the excitement and joy of Te Matatini and kapa haka itself. The depictions of pukana and haka will invigorate the soul.



MOOSE THE PILOT

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY KIMBERLY ANDREWS
 PUBLISHED BY PUFFIN, PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE, \$19.99 PB

Readers travel with Moose as he delivers parcels to friends in faraway places, and the illustrations also deliver, with their attention to detail, lovable characters and stunning landscapes. The vibrant colours and character animations will feed the imaginations of readers, who are invited to go on their own adventures and search the pages for more details.

MY CAT CAN SEE GHOSTS

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY EMILY JOE
 PUBLISHED BY BEATNIK PUBLISHING, \$30.00 HB

What is that cat staring at? The answer to this question and more is shared in this delightful story that will have readers thinking about their own cats. From the cover onwards, the illustrations create a tension that is emphasised in the 'eyes' and the authentic way in which the cat's behaviour is captured.



THE EIGHT GIFTS OF TE WHEKE

WRITTEN BY STEPH MATUKU, ILLUSTRATED BY LAYA MUTTON-ROGERS
 PUBLISHED BY HUIA PUBLISHERS, \$20.00 PB

Tamati tries everything to save his sister Aria from Te Wheke in this action-packed story of a battle with a huge octopus. The depth of colour and the detail in the images give readers the feeling that they too are being drawn into the realm of Te Wheke, where they will discover the multitude of treasures the octopus has amassed.

**TE REO MĀORI
 WRIGHT FAMILY FOUNDATION
 TE KURA POUNAMU AWARD**

FUN WHEKE FACTS, OUT IN
 TE MOANA, OFF-TO-SLEEP,
 TE MATATINI, AND CLASS
 TRIP CHAOS



HE WHEKE WAI MAMANGU AU

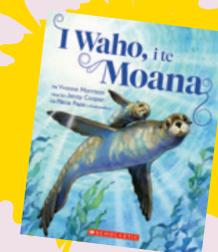
WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY STEPHANIE THATCHER, TRANSLATED BY PĀNIA PĀPA
 PUBLISHED BY SCHOLASTIC NEW ZEALAND, \$19.99 PB

He Wheke Wai Mamangu Au presents educational facts about the wheke (octopus) in a fun and colourful way for early readers – where it lives, and what makes it unique in its realm. The story and illustrations not only provide interesting information bites, they also will appeal to children's imaginations, and are elevated by the translator's use of te reo Māori.

I WAHO, I TE MOANA

WRITTEN BY YVONNE MORRISON, ILLUSTRATED BY JENNY COOPER, TRANSLATED BY PĀNIA PĀPA
 PUBLISHED BY SCHOLASTIC NEW ZEALAND, \$19.99 PB

The many types of taniwha that act as guardians in the moana form the mauri of this story. There is a lovely flow to the reo, and the illustrations bring to life the authenticity of the story and the creatures of the moana. *I Waho, i te Moana* incorporates layers of educational content that encourage growth in pāngarau (mathematics), and in te reo capability.



KI TE MOE AOTEAROA

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY DONOVAN BIXLEY, TRANSLATED BY DARRYN JOSEPH
 PUBLISHED BY UPSTART PRESS, \$19.99 PB

Ki te Moe Aotearoa presents a colourful interpretation of what happens at bedtime. Children will be engaged by the use of onomatopoeia for literary effect, and the illustrations encourage them to explore further. While the reo may be challenging for younger tamariki, the storyline provides an opportunity for adults to help their young ones expand and elevate their reo.

MOKOPUNA MATATINI

BY PANIA TAHAU-HODGES, ILLUSTRATED BY STORY HEMI-MOREHOUSE
 PUBLISHED BY HUIA PUBLISHERS, \$22.00 PB

Mokopuna Matatini shows an insider knowledge of the world of kapa haka – like the early-to-bed and early-to-rise mantra, and the stampede to find a spot to watch a favourite team. The illustrations are excellent caricatures of real life kaihaka, and the reo captures the essence of Te Matatini, allowing children to experience a small part of that world.



TE HIPO HUNA

BY JULIETTE MACIVER, ILLUSTRATED BY SARAH DAVIS, TRANSLATED BY KARENA KELLY
 PUBLISHED BY GECKO PRESS, \$19.99 PB

Te Hipo Huna is a quirky story about the innocence and mischievousness (or haututu) of children on a school trip, and their humorous reactions as they seek the 'Hipo'. The reo is like a jingle, with a rhythmic flow that children will enjoy – and they will also find hidden meanings within the story.

**ILLUSTRATION
 RUSSELL CLARK AWARD**

HEROES AND LEGENDS, HAKA
 MAGIC, A DARING MOOSE, FELINE
 ANTICS, AND OCTOPUS TREASURES

BEST FIRST BOOK NZSA AWARD

GIRL ON A QUEST,
UNDERSTANDING AUTISM,
FESTIVAL FUN, CHASING
GHOSTS, AND LOST IN
THE FOREST



HINE AND THE TOHUNGA PORTAL

BY ATARIA SHARMAN

PUBLISHED BY HUIA PUBLISHERS, \$25.00 PB

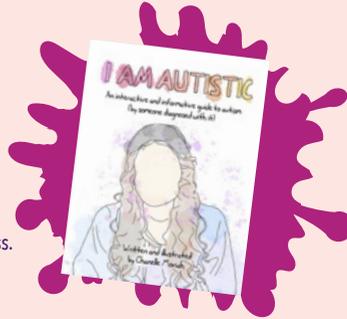
Hine and her brother Hōhepa are plunged into a world of magical creatures, where generational family bonds thread across time. This is a well-crafted and thrilling debut novel, which combines an action-packed adventure with a rich backdrop of te reo Māori and Māoritanga woven seamlessly throughout and made effortlessly accessible to all.

I AM AUTISTIC

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY CHANELLE MORIAH

PUBLISHED BY ALLEN & UNWIN, \$29.99 HB

I am Autistic adeptly contextualises the autistic experience, creating understanding for all. This interactive and educational guide uses a journal-style format, tips, explanations, real life examples, spaces to write thoughts and checklists as tools to assist in understanding and affirming what young people with autism may be experiencing. It exudes insight and kindness.

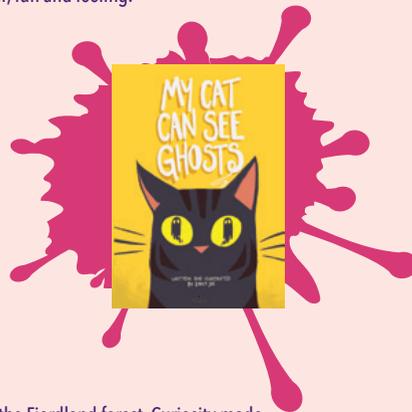


MOKOPUNA MATATINI

BY PANIA TAHAU-HODGES, ILLUSTRATED BY STORY HEMI-MOREHOUSE

PUBLISHED BY HUIA PUBLISHERS, \$22.00 PB

The whole whānau race for the coveted best spot in front of Te Matatini performance stage, and with a flurry of energy and anticipation the emotion and vibrancy of kapa haka begins. Ihi, wehi and wana are conveyed throughout in the pukana (facial expressions) of participants. A charming celebration of an iconic Aotearoa event, packed with humour, fun and feeling.



MY CAT CAN SEE GHOSTS

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY EMILY JOE

PUBLISHED BY BEATNIK PUBLISHING, \$30.00 HB

Mischiefous cats claw you into the story, with hair-raising antics that mirror authentic feline behaviour, and that will have cat owners wondering what their cats really see. *My Cat Can See Ghosts* is a sweet, fun, and imaginative rhyming story with a clever economy of words, well-considered combinations of images and text, and a personality that shines.



SPARK HUNTER

BY SONYA WILSON

PUBLISHED BY THE CUBA PRESS, \$25.00 PB

Alone, afraid and confused, Nissa is lost in the Fiordland forest. Curiosity made her follow the sparks of light, but is her mind playing tricks? As hope of rescue diminishes, Nissa realises she is not the only one in danger. *Spark Hunter* is an accomplished, captivating adventure story that transports readers to a world of fantastic creatures and endangered species.

Embrace the meanings and traditions of Matariki

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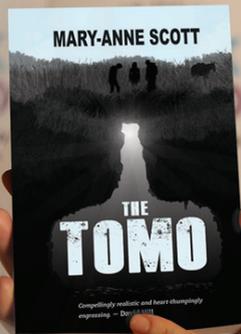
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One Tree House celebrates Mary-anne Scott and the success of *The Tomo*.

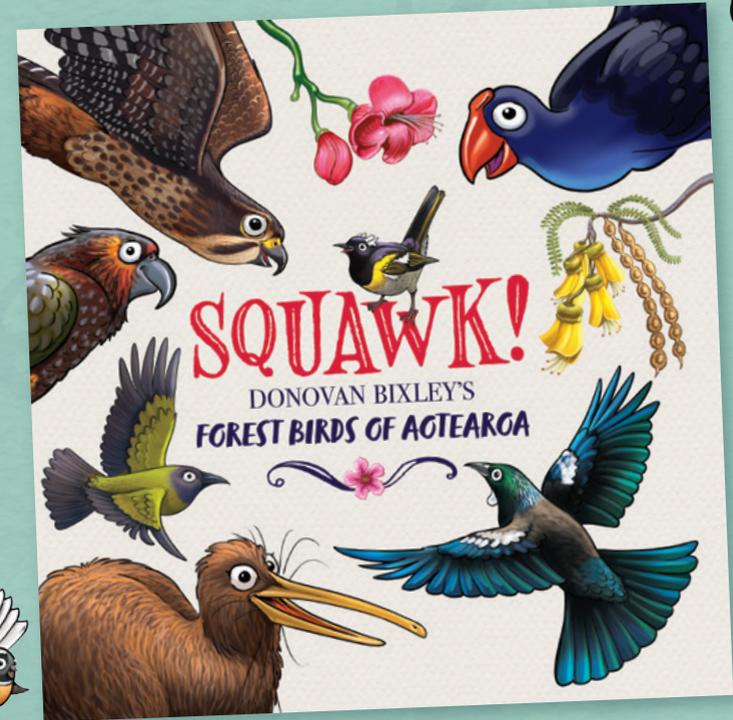
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AND THE WORLD'S MOST GIGANTIC BIRDS!



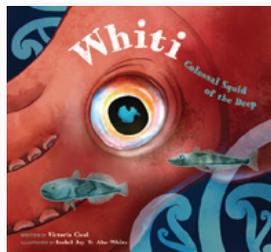
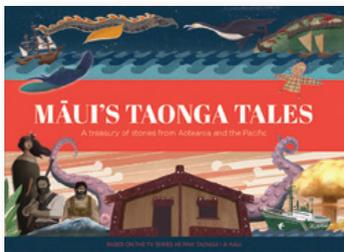
DONOVAN BIXLEY'S FOREST BIRDS OF AOTEAROA
is available in stores this July.

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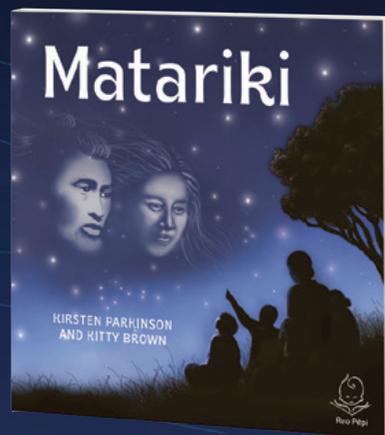
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How can we celebrate Matariki?

Tirohia ngā whetu
Let's look to the stars!



Visit allenandunwin.co.nz for Matariki activities



KIA ORA TO YOU ALL!

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Kia ora kids!

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