



KidFest

Nightlife Lantern Walk

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So many of Aotearoa / New Zealand's special wildlife only come out at night. And some of our pest animals too!

We hardly ever see some of our native animals because they keep very different hours from us. But that's why it's so important to get to know them!

Possum *Paihamu*

Like any master criminal, this introduced pest – the possum – operates under cover of darkness.



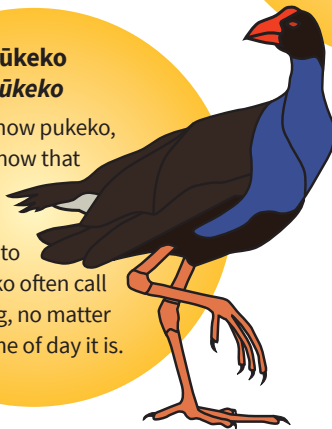
Tarata / Lemonwood flowers *He puāwai tarata / lemonwood*

Many native plants put on their best shows at night to attract night-fliers. The flowers of tarata / lemonwood might be tiny but they release a mighty strong perfume at night.



Pūkeko *Pūkeko*

Most of us know pukeko, but did you know that strange sound in the night often belongs to them? Pūkeko often call while flying, no matter what time of day it is.



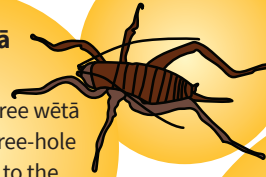
Īnanga *Īnanga*

Most NZ native fish like Īnanga are nocturnal and secretive – they hide under rocks, plants and logs during the day and come out at night to feed.



Tree wētā *Wētā*

As it gets darker, tree wētā wake from their tree-hole beds and climb to the young leaves and flowers for a midnight feast.



Kererū / wood pigeon *Kererū*

Some native birds, including kererū, are most active at dawn and dusk. One way to help native birds is to keep your cat indoors at night.



Kiwi *Kiwi*

Kiwis find their way in the dark with excellent senses of smell and touch. Cat-like whiskers help them feel their way around and they're the only bird in the world with nostrils at the end of their bill.



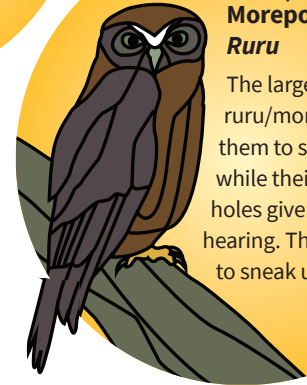
Lyre moths *Ngā pūrerehua lyre*

Ever stopped to wonder why so many NZ flowers are white? Because most of our native pollinators are active at night – just like these lyre moths.



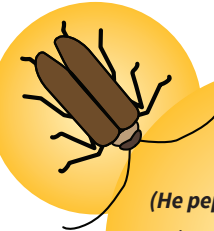
Ruru / Morepork *Ruru*

The large eyes of the ruru/morepork help them to see at night while their large ear holes give them superb hearing. They fly silently to sneak up on wētā.



Huhu beetle *Te tunga rere (He pepe te muimui ki ētahi)*

Cooler temperatures, darkness and damp help beetles hide from sharp-eyed predators which means the forest floor is often busier at night.



Tuna / Long-finned eels *Ngā tuna*

Tuna/eels come out at night to hunt small fish, snails and insect larvae using their good sense of smell.

