



TWIZEL NATIVE TRAIL

It's not just us humans who enjoy spending time in the Market Place. Look down and see if you can find the 20 other creatures lurking about!

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|----|--|----|-----------------------------------|
| 1 | AUSTRALASIAN BITTERN/
MATUKU-HŪREPO | 11 | MINUTE GRASSHOPPER |
| 2 | GIANT DRAGONFLY/KAWAU PŪ | 12 | BLACK-FRONTED TERN/
TARAPIROHE |
| 3 | BLACK SHAG/KAWAU PŪ | 13 | GREY SHRUB |
| 4 | ROBUST GRASSHOPPER | 14 | CENTIPEDE/WERI |
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| 8 | KNOBBLED WEEVIL | 18 | LONGJAW GALAXIS |
| 9 | TUSSOCK | 19 | TAKAPŌ GROUND WĒTĀ |
| 10 | SCARLET MISTLETOE/
ROEROE | 20 | LONGFIN EEL/TUNA |

TWIZEL NATIVE TRAIL

- 1 AUSTRALASIAN BITTERN/
MATUKU-HŪREPO**

These big, stocky birds with their mix of dark brown and light beige feathers are hardly ever spotted because they like to hide and live in hard-to-reach places. Sadly, most of their wetland habitat where they live have been destroyed to make room for farms and cities. Because of this, their numbers have dropped a lot since the 1980s.
- 2 GIANT DRAGONFLY/KAPOWAI**

With some specimens approaching 100mm long, this is Aotearoa's largest dragonfly. They are mostly black with pale yellow markings which may serve as a kind of disruptive camouflage, breaking up the outline of the insect when in flight. NZ's largest dragonfly, the Māori name (kapowai) means 'Water snatcher'. As a juvenile, it lives under water, and has a long jaw that shoots out to grab its food.
- 3 BLACK SHAG/KAWAU PŪ**

There are 36 species of shag worldwide. Twelve of these are found in Aotearoa, of which eight are endemic. The black shag is Aotearoa's biggest shag at over 2kg. Black shags are swift underwater swimmers, with a sharp hooked beak to help them catch fish and small crustaceans. After a bout of fishing, shags must spend a lot of time perched with their wings spread out, preening, and drying their feathers. This is because their feathers are not waterproof, making it easier for them to dive and stay underwater, but it also means the birds quickly get waterlogged and cold and must dry off afterwards.
- 4 ROBUST GRASSHOPPER**

Despite its name, you won't find this grasshopper living in the grass, rather you'll find it on the rocks of Te Manahuna's expansive braided rivers. The female grasshopper is much larger than her male partner, and although she can jump well, she is terrible at landing, often landing on her back!

The robust grasshopper also comes from an ancient group of grasshoppers that have changed very little in the last 100 million years.
- 5 FISHING SPIDER**

Fishing spiders are like spider superheroes who live on water! Instead of making webs, they stand on the surface of the water and use their feet to feel for tiny movements made by insects underwater. It's like they're detectives, sensing vibrations to find their next meal! To be able to fish from the water surface these spiders must be able to walk on water. This creepy crawly lives and hunts along the gravel bank of unforested rivers. Normally nocturnal, it sits and waits for its prey after dark, and can survive for short periods of time underwater.
- 6 PŪKEKO**

The Pūkeko is probably the most recognisable native bird in Aotearoa with its distinctive colouring and habit of feeding on the ground. They are widespread and are as at home in pasture and farmland as they are in wetlands. Although they're not great at flying, they are excellent waders, swimmers, and runners.
- 7 JEWELLED GECKO**

The Jewelled gecko, known for its arboreal habitat, is a diurnal creature, meaning it thrives during daylight hours. With a lifespan exceeding 30 years, this species inhabits various regions of the South Island, although deforestation and shrubland loss have led to sporadic presence in Te Manahuna. Like other lizards it is an important pollinator and disperser of seeds.
- 8 KNOBBLED WEEVIL**

The Canterbury knobbled weevil is now the rarest member of a small genus of large, flightless, nocturnal weevils. Other species are present on the Chatham Islands, in Fiordland, and on the Snarres and other sub-Antarctic islands. All are threatened by severe habitat modification, introduced predators or both.

Around 150 years ago, Canterbury knobbled weevils were common throughout the Canterbury region but by 1922 they were declared extinct. That is until the early 2000s when a university students found a bumpy little weevil near Burkes Pass.
- 9 TUSSOCK**

This native plant is part of what gives Te Manahuna such a distinctive look. The iconic plant comes in many varieties, such as silver tussock, wind grass, and dwarf toe, and is known for being tough, and hardy, withstanding the harsh conditions of our extreme climate.
- 10 SCARLET MISTLETOE/ROEROE**

Mistletoe is often associated with Christmas due to many of the stories of our English ancestors, so it may surprise some to learn that we have eight living species of native mistletoe in Aotearoa.

Mistletoe populations in Aotearoa have declined over the years because possums find them so tasty, but successful pest control programmes have seen the plants thrive on the shore of Lake Ōhau.
- 11 MINUTE GRASSHOPPER**

This grasshopper is the smallest that you'll find here Te Manahuna. Females will grow to be 1.5cm long, and males only 1cm!

In addition to being adorably tiny, the minute grasshopper boasts an impressively variable appearance, coming in a range of colours and patterns that match the plants, lichens, soils, and rocks in its habitat.
- 12 BLACK-FRONTED TERN/
TARAPIROHE**

Most terns are seabirds, but the black-fronted tern lives and breeds inland, only visiting the coast to feed in autumn and winter. Considered threatened-nationally endangered, the tarapirohe mainly breed on braided rivers, like the ones in the Te Manahuna. Breeding on a riverbed is a risky business. Many eggs and chicks do not survive. Riverbed birds have adapted to cope with floods and are able to reneat if eggs or chicks are lost. The largest breeding colony of black-fronted terns in the world is on the Ōhau River, just outside of Twizel. Around 10% of all black-fronted terns are Twizel born and bred.
- 13 GREY SHRUB**

The grey scrub gets its name because it looks dark and grey. It's made up of different kinds of small bushes like matagouri, mingimingi, and olearias. There are also vine-like plants that climb over and through these bushes.

Animals and plants like to live in grey scrub. This includes different types of lizards. Grey scrub can connect different areas where plants grow and sometimes help new forests grow. It also helps protect the plants and animals that are native to an area, including various lizard species (skins and geckos).
- 14 CENTIPEDE/WERI**

Residing in soil and leaf litter, under stones and dead wood, and inside logs, centipedes can be easily recognised by their long, flat, multi-segmented bodies, many legs, and wriggling gait. Each segment of their body bears a single pair of walking legs, and the total number of segments and pairs can range from 15 to more than 100.

All centipedes are predators, able to tackle relatively large and active prey, grasping and paralysing their victims with their poison-claws.
- 15 MACKENZIE SKINK**

Calling Te Manahuna home, this slithery little cutie is the Mackenzie skink. These large lizards can grow up to 94mm, that's if they're not snagged by rats, mustelids, hedgehogs, or feral cats! Although similar to another local, the lakes skink, the eye-like speckles are only present on the back and not the tail.
- 16 BLACK-BILLED GULL/TARĀPUKA**

Just like other gulls, black-billed gulls are extremely clever and will take advantage of free food regardless of whether it's fish 'n' chips or salad. Feeding them or leaving scraps around is not a good idea because it causes them to get a bit pesky and annoying. This is a very sad situation for the black-billed gulls because they are one of the most endangered gull species in the world, and only live here in Aotearoa. They are incredibly special and should be living out on the rivers eating bugs from the water or eating worms in the paddocks.
- 17 WRYBILL/NGUTU PARE**

The wrybill is the only bird in the world with a laterally curved bill (always curved to the right), which it uses to reach insect larvae under rounded riverbed stones.

The main threats faced by wrybills are predation (by introduced mammals and native birds), flooding of nests, and loss or degradation of breeding habitat.
- 18 LONGJAW GALAXIAS**

This small native fish can only be found in Te Wai Pounamu, the South Island of Aotearoa. The longjaw galaxias have a pencil-thin body and a long bottom jaw that protrudes over their upper lip. With only a few remaining populations, they are Aotearoa's rarest native fish, affectionately known as 'jaws'.
- 19 TAKAPŌ GROUND WĒTĀ**

The Takapō wētā was first discovered in 1992 around the Takapō River. It loves to burrow in silty soils and usually prefers to live on river terraces. The wētā has been discovered in a few other places in Te Manahuna now. To the excitement of scientists, a relatively large population of the Takapō ground wētā was found in 2021 when Department of Conservation staff were removing skins from a pest-free enclosure at Paterson's Terrace near Takapō!
- 20 LONGFIN EEL/TUNA**

Endemic to Aotearoa, the longfin eel/tuna, so named because its dorsal (top) fin is longer than its bottom fin, is probably the biggest eel in the world. Slow growing and sometimes living for 80 years, some females can reach 2m long and weigh up to 40kg!