

in the garden

explore & discover

the New Zealand
backyard



Ned Barraud & Gillian Candler

craigpottonpublishing

To my wife Niamh — NB
For my parents — GC



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First published in 2013 by Craig Potton Publishing

Craig Potton Publishing
98 Vickerman Street, PO Box 555, Nelson,
New Zealand
www.craigpotton.co.nz

Illustrations © Ned Barraud; text © Gillian Candler

ISBN PB 978-1-877517-99-0; HB 978-1-927213-02-5

Printed in China by Midas Printing International Ltd

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Also by Ned Barraud and Gillian Candler,
At the Beach: explore and discover the New Zealand seashore, 2013 NZ Post Children's Book Awards finalist, 2013 Lianza Children's Book Awards finalist



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There's a rustling and a buzzing in the garden.

Something chirps and sings. The garden is alive with animals and plants. For the creatures that live here, the garden is a wild place. Insects, spiders, lizards and other animals need clever ways to survive. Some live deep under the soil, some hide during the daytime, some are camouflaged so they can't be seen easily.

The garden has many secrets. Look carefully, as you turn the pages of this book to discover the animals and plants that live in the garden.

Birds visit the garden, eating insects, nectar and fruit. Some stay and build nests in the hedge or the trees.



It is spring. The garden has been dug. Seeds and young plants have just been planted. Sun and rain will help the plants to grow, but they also need food that the soil provides.

Small animals are living in the soil, the compost and the decaying log.

Look for signs of animals.

The snails leave shiny trails behind them.

The song thrush has eaten some of the snails and left their empty shells on the ground.

Worm casts show where worms have come up out of the soil.

Bees and butterflies are visiting the garden. Look at pages 18-21 to find out more about the bees, butterflies and moths that are in the pictures of this book.

The blackbird knows there are worms and grass grubs in the lawn. It is listening and looking for them, hoping to catch food to take back to the baby birds in its nest.

What lives in the ground?

tree wētā hide inside trees during the daytime.

fungi feed on decaying plant material, such as this old wooden log.

millipedes like to eat rotting wood and live in damp places.

slaters or woodlice live in dark, damp places.

huhu grubs spend several years eating rotten wood before turning into huhu beetles.

wolf spiders are fast hunters. Their eight eyes help them find their prey.

soil is sometimes called 'earth' or 'dirt'. It is a mixture of tiny pieces of broken rock and decayed plant material.

song thrushes eat snails, worms, insects and spiders.

blackbirds like to feed on the ground.

centipedes eat insects, worms and slugs.

worms eat dead plants and soil, leaving worm casts (worm poo) behind them.

This **grass grub** will grow into a **bronze beetle** if it can escape the blackbird's beak.

In summer, the noisy male cicadas are calling for females. Plums are ripening on the tree and the flax has almost finished flowering.

Birds have come to the garden to find food. **Look at pages 26-27** to find out which birds are in the garden and what they are eating.



Plants make good places for animals to live. Some insects are hiding among the leaves and twigs, camouflaged so birds can't spot them.

It is easier to see the colourful butterflies, moths and caterpillars. Their bright colours warn birds that they are poisonous.

For a closer look at what lives on the plants, **turn to pages 12-13**. For what lives in the trees, **turn to pages 14-15**.



What lives on the plants?

green plant hoppers use camouflage to avoid being eaten. They feed on the juice of plants.

PAGE 24

A **nursery web spider** spins a web around its babies to keep them safe.

PAGE 20

monarch butterflies feed on nectar from flowers.

PAGE 18

honeybees collect pollen in special bags on their legs and take it back to their hive.

monarch caterpillars can eat the poisonous swan plant leaves without any harm. The poison stays in their bodies so predators won't eat them.

PAGE 20

The **praying mantis** is a predator. Praying mantis stay very still and then move suddenly and quickly to grab prey such as flies.

PAGE 23

PAGE 24

Cobwebs made by **orbweb spiders** are for catching insects.

ladybirds can eat up to 50 aphids a day.

PAGE 23

aphids suck juice out of plants.

PAGE 23

bumblebees have long tongues to get nectar from flowers.

PAGE 18