

Alf is a hut warden. While taking a swim, a cheeky weka steals his precious watch. He must get it back. That evening, Alf thinks up a cunning plan to outwit the weka and recover his watch.

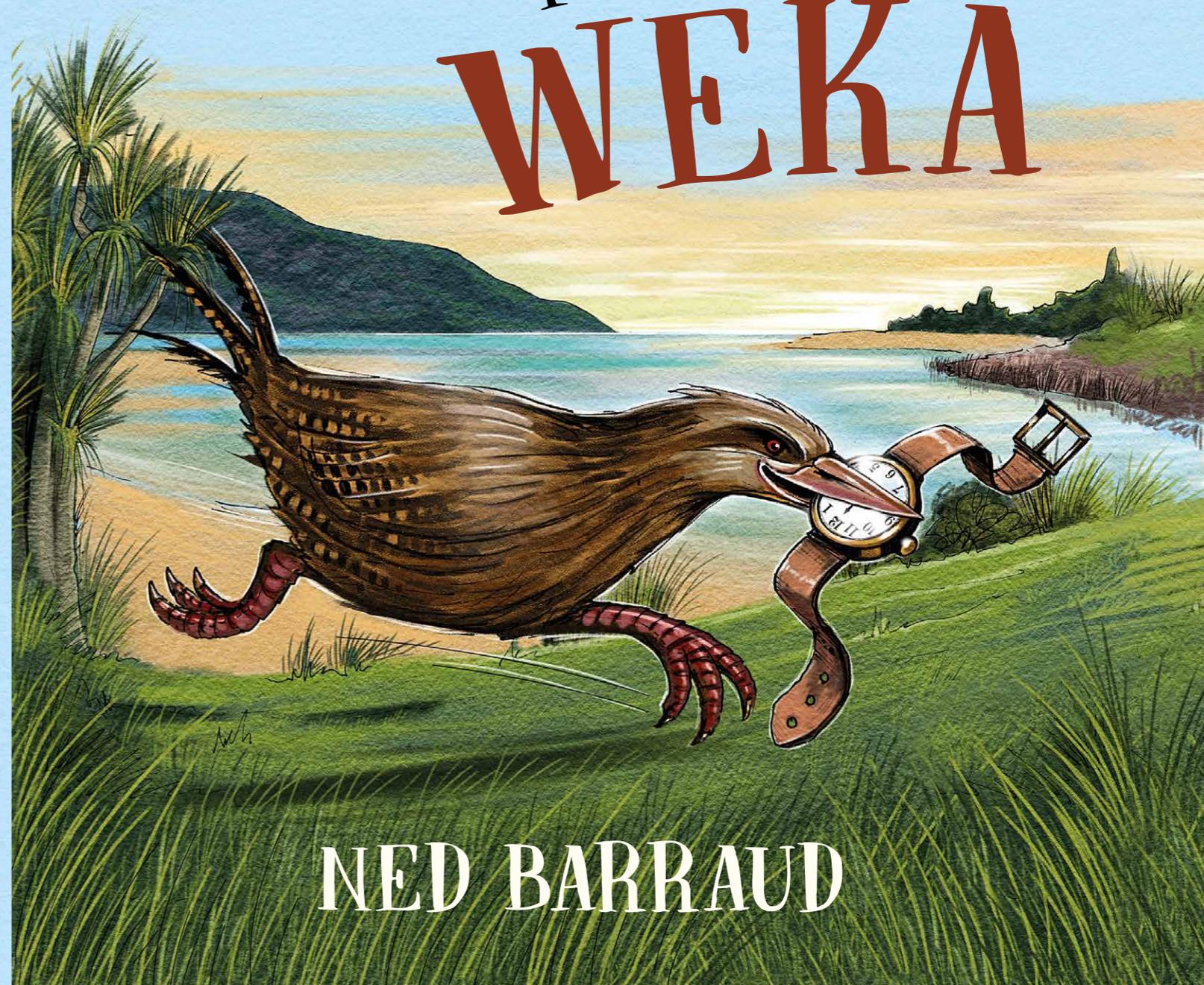
Based on a true story from Awaroa in Abel Tasman National Park, this hugely entertaining picture book reveals the inquisitive and curious nature of our native weka, and will delight young and old alike.



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WATCH OUT FOR THE WEKA



NED BARRAUD

As a child, NED BARRAUD spent his summer holidays camping in Abel Tasman National Park. This book emerged from recalling a story that was told to him during one of those summer holidays and it was an opportunity to take him back to one of the places he loves most.

Ned graduated in 2000 with a degree in illustration from Victoria University. During the day, he works as a texture artist painting 3D models at Weta Digital, and has worked on films such as the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy, *Avatar* and *Tintin*. Alongside this, Ned has illustrated all six titles in the acclaimed 'explore & discover' series of natural history books for children, and his first picture book, *Moonman*, was published in 2014.

Ned's other interests include exploring nature with his three children, running in the hills with his dog, collecting eggs from his chickens and riding his bike around the wild Wellington coastline.

WATCH OUT FOR THE WEKA

NED BARRAUD

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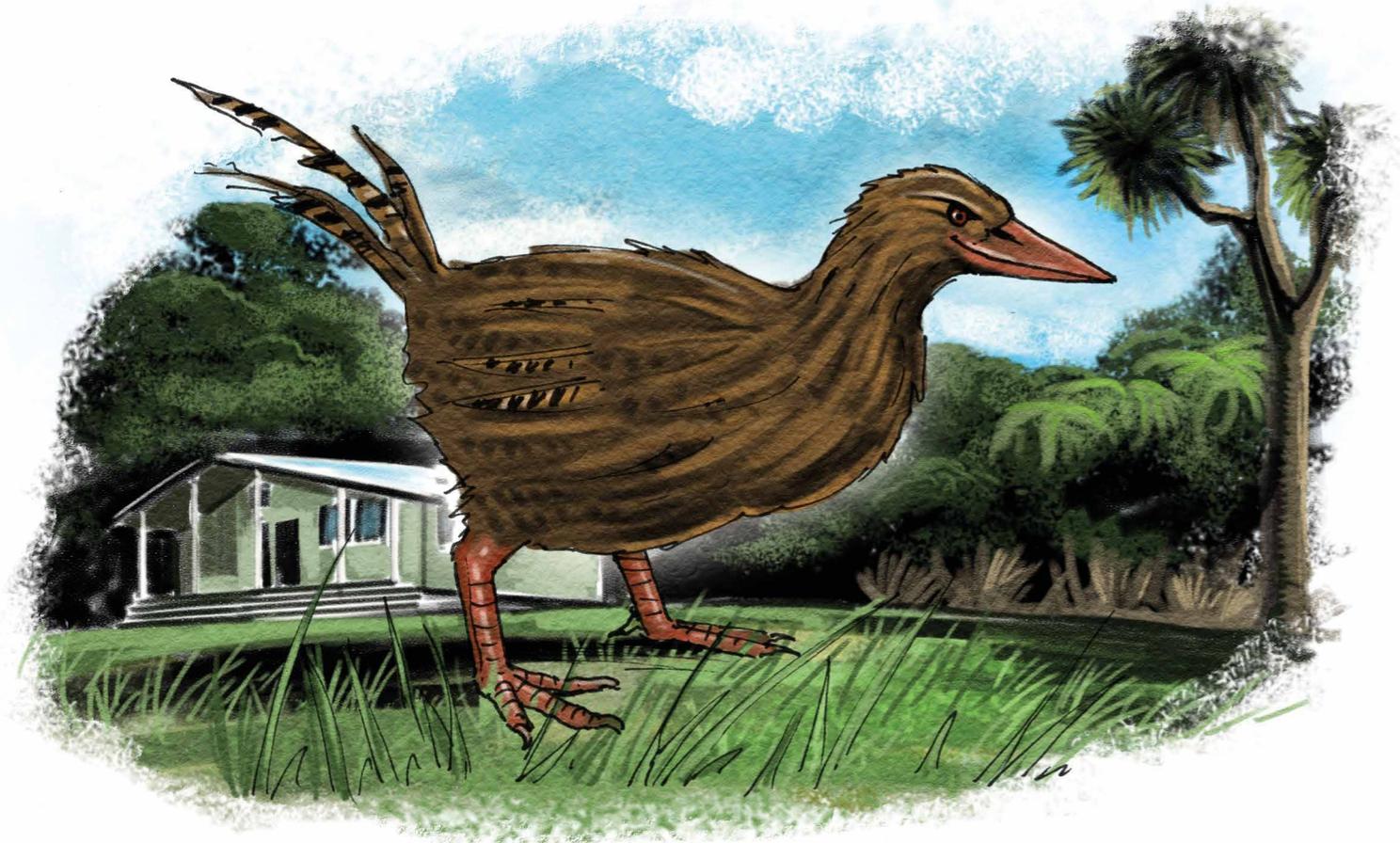
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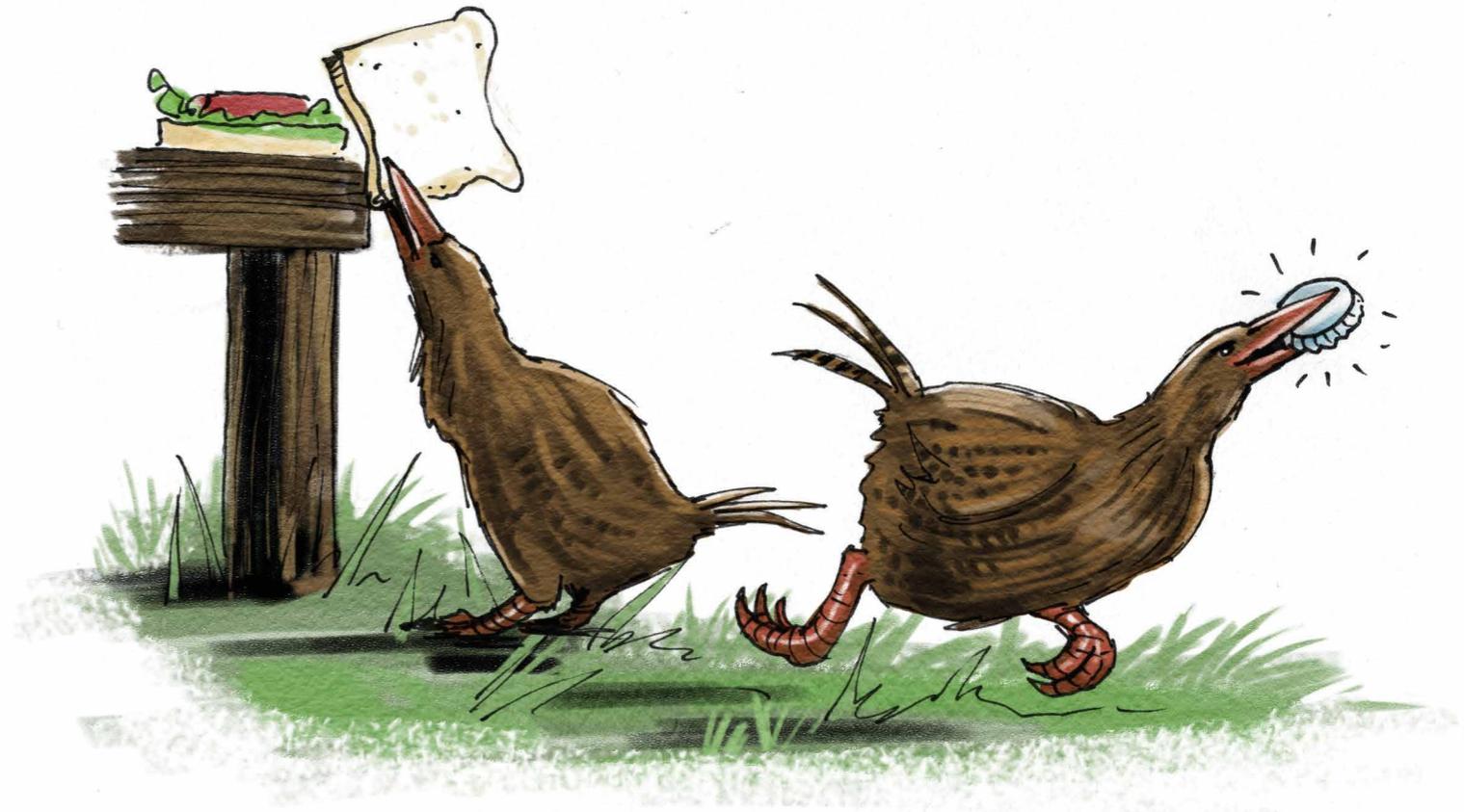
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Around the hut you are sure to see weka,

always looking for an opportunity to steal a free meal,



or even something shiny that catches their beady eyes.

During the summer months, Alf was the hut warden.
It was his job to look after the hut, and to help the
trampers passing through.



At the end of a hot day, Alf loved to strip off and cool down in the stream behind the hut.

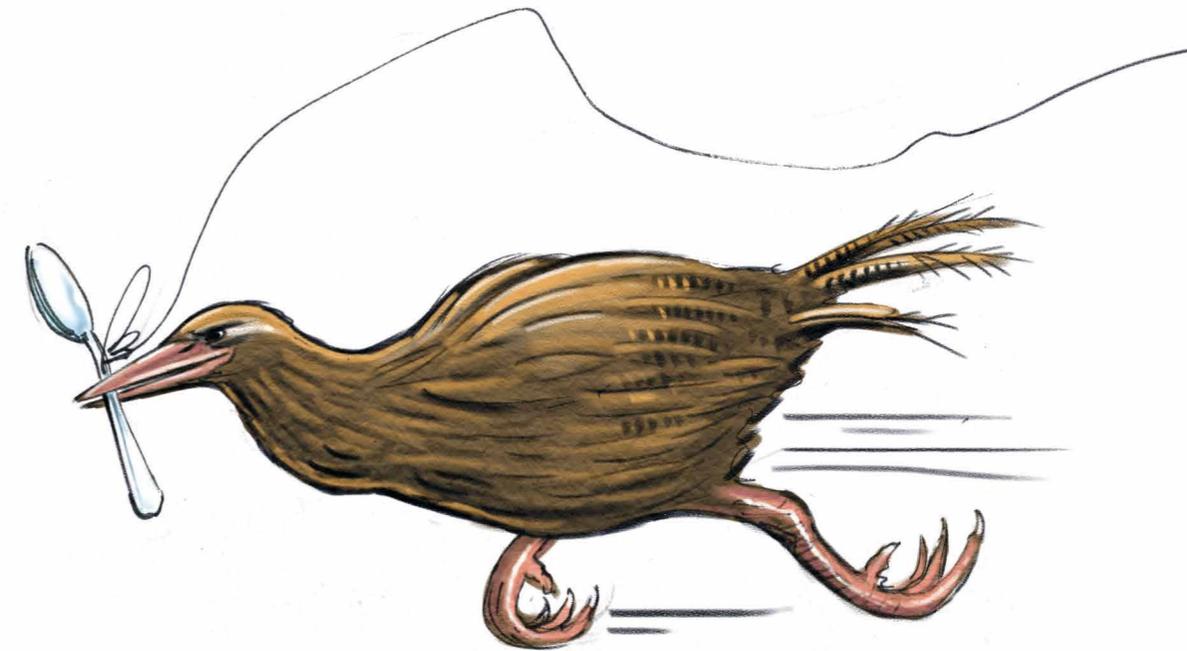
One evening he was relaxing in the pool when along came a curious weka, poking around.





The next evening he tied a long piece of string to a shiny teaspoon, which he left on the rocks by the stream. Then he hid in the bush, and waited.

It didn't take long before the weka snatched the teaspoon and ran off.



Alf made a sign to warn the trampers.



