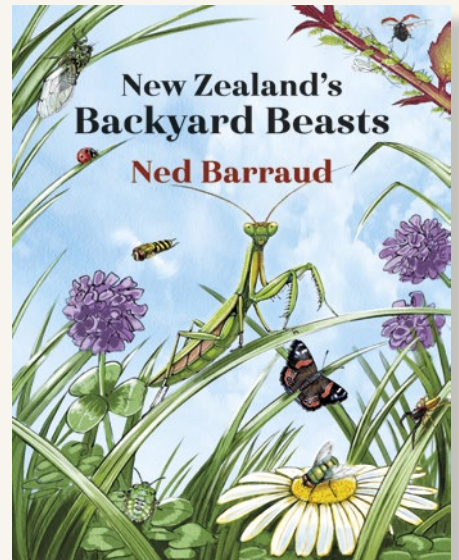


INSPIRING CHILDREN TO DISCOVER AMAZING BEASTS HIDDEN IN THEIR OWN BACKYARDS



*“I have a vivid memory of swimming in a lake as a little boy, and spotting a flash of colour out of the corner of my eye. Hovering effortlessly, just beside me, was a dragonfly, a humming blur of gossamer wings. I stared with wonder as it scanned me with its metallic eyes, which seemed to wrap all the way around its head. Suddenly, it banked to one side and darted off as quickly as it had appeared. What a magical creature! What a perfect life form, crafted from million upon millions of years of evolution . . . There is so much to see in your backyard if you look closely enough. Step outside and see what you can find.” – Ned Barraud, *New Zealand's Backyard Beasts**

In the garden, creeping along branches, hiding under stones or flitting from flower to flower, a whole universe of creatures is waiting to be discovered. Butterflies, moths, beetles, wasps, spiders... what have you found in your backyard?

Did you know that chorus cicadas live underground for most of their life? That bumblebees have smelly feet? That some species of stick insect are all female? Or that earwigs don't actually crawl into ears?

Children and adult children alike are in good hands with the creator of *New Zealand's Backyard Beasts* Ned Barraud, who brings the natural world to life with compelling facts, captivating illustrations, fun and quirky information. Backyard explorers will readily find and be able to identify some of the creatures most commonly found in their own backyards. What a thrill!

New Zealand's Backyard Beasts includes bees and wasps, beetles, butterflies and moths, mantises and stick insects and wētā (insects), centipedes and millipedes (myriapods), spiders (arachnids), snails and slugs (crustaceans) and more. The book also introduces the magical transformations of complete and incomplete metamorphosis that insects undergo in their lifecycle.

From the simply curious to the budding entomologist, *New Zealand's Backyard Beasts* will delight and inform all age groups about the fascinating creatures to be found in the back garden.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

NED BARRAUD is an illustrator with a keen passion for the natural world. For as long as he can remember, Ned has been fascinated by the form and beauty of the insect kingdom, with some of his earliest artwork depicting beetles, shining like jewels. Ned illustrated all six books in the award-winning 'Explore & Discover' series, along with the forthcoming *Animals of Aotearoa*. He released his first fiction title, *Moonman* in 2014, and the acclaimed *Watch Out for the Weka* in 2017. Ned works at Weta Digital as a texture artist. When he's at home with his wife, three children and menagerie of pets, Ned enjoys exploring in the garden, discovering new bugs, creating habitats and making wētā hotels.

NED BARRAUD IS AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEW / EXTRACTS ARE AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

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