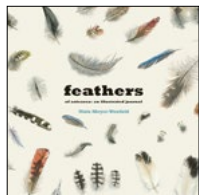


Feathers of Aotearoa
Niels Meyer-Westfield
Potton & Burton
\$59.99



The first hollow filaments that evolved about 250 million years ago in pre-avian dinosaurs are thought to have been for insulation, display or communication rather than flight. Since then, a myriad of more complicated feathers have evolved. Written and illustrated by Niels Meyer-Westfield, this distinctive 200 page, 26 x 26cm hardback which weighs in at 1.42kg is a deep dive into the complex modern forms and functions of feathers. Designed in the style of a nature journal and printed on high quality uncoated paper, it brings to life our native birds in an innovative and informative way that deftly combines science with art.

After an introduction describing the author's passion for feathers and nature art, the book's nine chapters cover the history of feathers, their colours and patterns, and the different types of feathers before focusing on the main bird groups with a selection of species from each. The text also covers relevant aspects of avian anatomy, migration, habitats and ecology.

Hundreds of illustrations elegantly evoke the versatile forms of the feathers of the native and endemic birds of Aotearoa, alongside a few introduced and Australian species. Each feather illustration is accurate and informative with the practical value of allowing identification in the wild. The striking field sketches and coloured pencil illustrations reflect careful field observations and the text displays an accumulation of detailed knowledge. The overall impression is of a very attractive book which will provide hours of interest by being both aesthetically pleasing and educational.

MICHAEL SZABO, EDITOR