

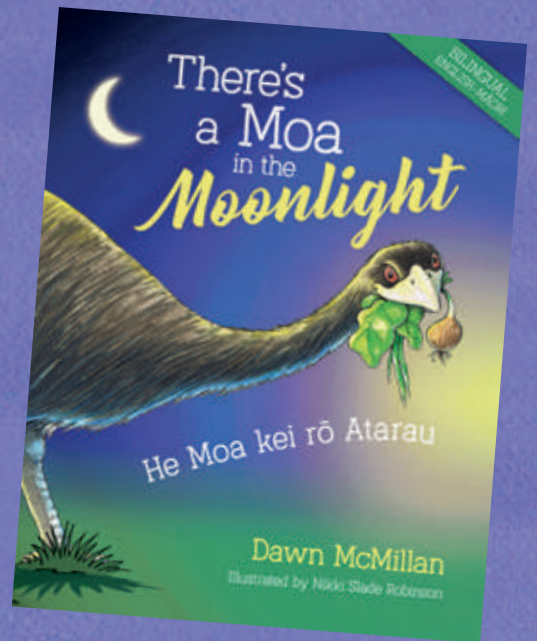


# There's a Moa in the *Moonlight*

He Moa kei rō Atarau

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Illustrated by Nikki Slade Robinson



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## Teacher Resource

What would your mum think if she saw a Moa in your garden? Or one of the many wonderful, but sadly extinct, animals in this book, such as Laughing Owl or Adzebill? Find out how we think the animals in this book used to live – what they ate, how they moved, where they liked to nest.

And of course, find out Mum's reaction to having all of these critters in her garden!



## PUT ON YOUR THINKING HATS!



What did you think when you saw the poster on the title page? How do you feel about these creatures being lost? How might they have been saved? Which of these creatures would you most like to see and why?



Make a plan to make the earth a safer place for animals and plants, including what you can do at home.



If everyone in the world followed your plans living things would be safe. A tricky question – why might people not follow your plans?



What does the word **extinct** mean? What is the difference between **extinct** and **endangered**? Explore the **Extras for Extincts** pages of this book to find some causes of extinction. Do you know of any creatures that are in danger of becoming extinct?



The author thought the last page was a good way of ending the story. Why do you think she planned the page this way? Why do you think the page has no text? The illustrator loved drawing this page. Can you see where she had special fun with her creature drawings? Why do you think she drew a poster on the wall? What do think Mum will say she comes into the room?



Make a judgement about why so many of today's plants and animals are endangered?







# FULL S-T-E-A-M AHEAD!

Some fun activities for Science, Technology,  
Engineering, Arts and Math

- Invite someone from the Department of Conservation to come and speak to the school about their strategies to protect endangered species. Explore their website <https://www.doc.govt.nz/our-work/protecting-species/>  
Have some questions ready for the speaker.

Some other sites you may wish to explore:

<https://www.endangeredspecies.org.nz>

<https://www.aucklandzoo.co.nz/get-involved/conservation>

- There may be a local conservation group in your community with someone keen to come to your class or school.
- Video the speakers for sharing with others. Ask an expert to help with editing the recording. Invite parents and the community to a viewing. If you have a school TV channel you can run the video as a programme.
- Create an Extinct Creatures art exhibition in your classroom, or as part of a whole school project. Recreate extinct creatures with drawings, paintings, models. Try paper-maché, paper, cardboard, clay, plasticine or any other material of your choice. Make a diorama using the creatures in this book. Create a large mural to hang in the classroom or the school hall. Label your art work in te reo Māori.
- Make a Pouakai kite to hang in your classroom or in the foyer of your school.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kIFY-6j8Zw0>  
The video gives no measurements. Draw a diagram of the shape that the kite-maker uses and measure the dowel lengths in your diagram. Take the measurements in your diagram and multiply the lengths of dowel by the same number. On a large sheet of paper redraw your diagram to check that you have the kite big enough. Follow your new diagram to make your kite. Cover your kite with brown paper and paint it to create Pouakai.

To build a kite that flies check out

<https://thatafterschoollife.com/kite.html>

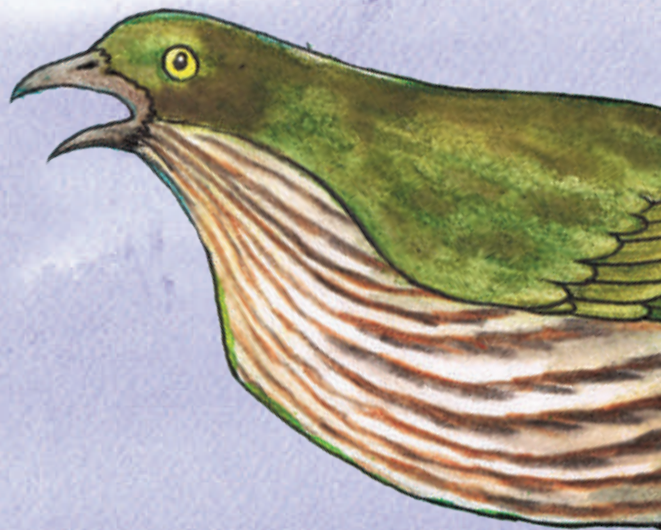




- Practise your te reo Māori by reading the Māori text to each other. When your visitors come to school, read to the audience in both English and te reo Māori. The translator Ngaere Roberts has given us a glossary of the te reo words and their meanings. Find the words in the story. Use them to label your artwork and in your own stories.

### Papakupu/Glossary

āhuru	warm, comfortable
anuhe	grub, caterpillar
apu	to gobble
ata koia!	an expression of surprise
atarau	moonlight
hāpara	dawn
huna	to hide
iarī	yard
iti	small
kākano	seed
kakata	laugh frequently
kamu(hia)	to munch
kiore	mouse
kōrare	silverbeet
korotū	skull
kukune	fat
māra	garden
mārire	quiet
maru	safe
matapihi	window
mīta	metre
ngārāra	lizard
pātū	wall
pepeke	frog
piere	cracks
poupoutanga	midday
rahi	large
rere kore	flightless
rētihi	lettuce
riki	onion
toka	rock, stone
topa	to dart around
tūpuhi	thin
whakamā	shy
whatu kōwhai	yellow eyes



## WRITE TO US

Ngaere Roberts has come out of retirement to bless us with the te reo translation of *There's a Mōa in the Moonlight*. Write a thank you letter to Ngaere, or make her a card. Send your letters and cards to Ngaere at 783 West Coast Road, Oratia, Auckland 0604.



# Extras for Extincts



**Moa** were large, flightless birds that lived in New Zealand until about 500 years ago. They belonged to a group of birds called ratites, which also includes Kiwi and Emus. Their feathers were rough and shaggy,

and Moa had evolved so long without flying that there was no trace left of the wings. Fossilised Moa footprints measuring 30 centimetres wide have been found preserved in rock in the South Island.



**Laughing Owl** was also known as **Whēkau**, **Ruru Whenua** and **Hakoke**. Laughing Owls were about twice the size of Ruru/Morepork that we know today. They had a loud voice, making shrieks and a 'cack-cack-cack' sound — a piercing, laughing call. The

calls were mainly heard on dark, drizzly nights or before rainfall. Laughing Owls lived in both open country and forested areas. They roosted in caves or in fissures in rock faces and on rock ledges. Laughing Owls ate lizards, insects and small birds. They had long sturdy legs.

**Huia** were large songbirds. The females and males had different bill sizes and shapes. The male used his straight, strong beak to peck at decaying wood in search of insects, and the female would use her long, curved beak to get the insects out. Huia are sacred to Māori. The tail feathers are taonga (treasure) and wearing them is considered an honour. When not in use the feathers are kept in waka huia (treasure boxes).



Māori named the bird after its loud distress call, 'uia, uia, uia'. The last Huia were seen over 100 years ago.

**Haast's Eagle/Pouakai** was the largest eagle ever to have existed in the world. It had a wingspan of between 2 and 3 metres and weighed up to 13

kilograms. In Māori legend it is known as Pouakai, 'the big glutton'. With strong legs and large talons as sharp as the claws of a tiger, it could kill very large prey.



**South Island Goose** was a large bird, weighing up to 18 kilograms and standing a metre tall. Because the South Island Goose had less webbing on its feet than a modern-day goose, scientists think it was more of a land bird than a water bird. South Island Goose eggs were often eaten by rats. The bird was hunted by early Māori, and became extinct before the arrival of European settlers.





**Koreke**, the **New Zealand Quail**, has been extinct since 1875. It was a small ground bird with stout legs and a torpedo-shaped body, which was just the right shape for running through thick grass and undergrowth. Koreke lived in extended family groups. The well-hidden nest of Koreke was a cup-shaped indentation of flattened grass.



**Lyall's Wren** got its name from an assistant lighthouse keeper, David Lyall, who first brought it to the attention of science. Lyall's Wren was a flightless songbird that looked like a mouse as it scampered across the ground. Its wings were very short and rounded and the feathers were loose.



**Piopio** in this story is a South Island Piopio. Piopio are sometimes called the New Zealand Thrush. They were birds of the forest floor and the undergrowth. Their calls are said to have been among the most beautiful of any New Zealand bird song. They were also able to mimic the calls of other birds. Their nests were well made cups placed in trees, a few metres from the ground. In the late 1800s Piopio disappeared rapidly with the spread of ship rats and stoats.



**Kawekaweau** is an extinct New Zealand lizard. It was the largest of all geckos, growing to 37 centimetres in body length, with a total length of 60 centimetres (including the tail). Māori believed Kahungunu kept a Kawekaweau in a wooden bowl to frighten his enemies. A preserved Kawekaweau was found in a museum in France. It had been there since 1869. It was returned to New Zealand in 1990 as part of the celebrations for the 150th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi.

**Waitomo Frog** was a native frog of New Zealand. Once there were seven frog species, today there are four. New Zealand native frogs are among the world's most ancient frogs. Waitomo Frog lived in the north and was a large, strong frog. Bones and some very old remains of one frog were found in a cave near Waitomo.



It was around 10 centimetres in length, about twice the size of any other native New Zealand frog.

**Adzebill** was a large flightless bird with a massive, thick-walled skull and a downward-curving and pointed beak. The legs of the Adzebill were short and strong. The birds fed on large invertebrates such as spiders and insects, and on lizards, small birds and even tuatara. New Zealand had two species of Adzebill: the smaller North Island Adzebill and the larger South Island Adzebill. Both became extinct before the arrival of European explorers. A complete skeleton of a North Island Adzebill was found in a limestone cave at Te Kuiti, Waikato.

