

There is a book you can read about 'Hemi', one of my friends.



NZ Harrier Hawk – 'Kahu'

Released April 2016

These two beautiful Harrier Hawks came to ARRC with damaged wings, both from being hit accidentally by vehicles. Dr Liza and Super Sue undertook thorough checks and x-rays to ensure there were no broken bones or internal damage.

When in rehabilitation, we keep their environment very quiet, with very little human contact to ensure that they don't become too stressed or get a fright and possibly reinjure themselves.

After a few weeks healing and putting on weight, they were released back into a rural expansive environment where one was seen quite often over the following weeks due to some distinguishable shorter feathers on one wing (that eventually grew back out).

FACTS

Introduced from Australia. They are New Zealand's largest bird of prey.

Diet: Meat – consisting of live prey or carrion. Young hawks will also eat insects.

Environment: Open landscapes where they can search for food.

Breeding: Lay between 1 – 7 eggs with the female doing all of the incubation. They both gather food for their young.



Carer Experience

"Harrier Hawks are magnificent birds. Up close they are an incredible colour mix of browns, creams, champagnes, greys and whites.

An adult hawk's wingspan can be over a metre and a half wide at full stretch but they are also relatively light weighted birds.

They watch you very intently however are not interested in interacting with people at all, even at food time and would rather be left alone which is exactly what we do. If scared they can sit back on their wings and raise their talons out at you but this is merely a defence position rather than they actually want to hurt you.

They make very little noise when in care, and more open their beak at you as a warning look rather than a sound.

Release days are so special, when you finally get to see them take their free flight off over the property and up into the wind. You have to be very quick to get photos of them in the air before they are up and away enjoying their freedom again."

