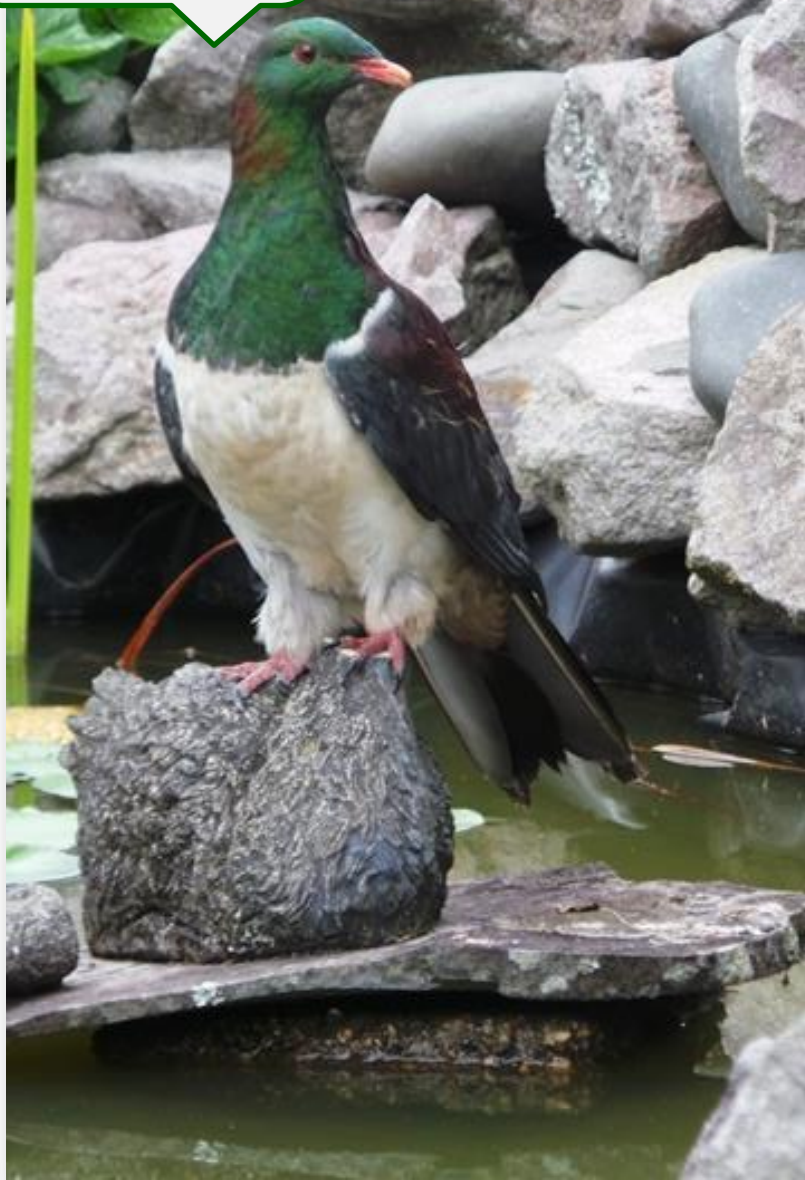


There is a book you can read about 'Kingi', one of my friends.



## NZ Wood Pigeon – 'Kereru'

Released April 2016

This cheeky wood pigeon was found as a baby on the ground with no feathers or parents and was brought into ARRC.

He\* was so young that it took a few days for his green feathers to start to show and we realised he was a baby Kereru.

Kereru's are notoriously hard to feed in rehabilitation, often needing to be 'crop' fed. However being so young, we were able to start feeding with a syringe of pureed fruit, vegetables and nutrients and eventually hand feeding solid food as he got older.

Due to his young age, he spent a lot of time within care, getting fed three times a day until such time as he could feed on his own.

He was released into his foster environment so that feeding could continue as he learned how to find his own food and become independent.

\* Note: He may be a 'she', it's impossible to tell.

### FACTS

**Native to New Zealand.**

**Diet:** A wide variety of buds, leaves, flowers and fruit.

**Environment:** Forest and bush areas with plenty of food.

**Breeding:** usually just 1 egg with parents sharing the incubation and feeding of the young.

### Carer Experience

*"What an amazing experience getting to care for a Kereru from such a young age. Spending so much time with a young bird and watching it grow into the beautiful adult we released is something that will stay with me forever.*

*They are very engaging and even though they are large birds; they are very gentle. Kereru are incredibly fast when they fly and will often dive and dart throughout the garden at break neck speed – which is why they are probably prone to hitting many things such as our homes and vehicles.*

*He was released a number of months ago; however continues to pay us visits, sometimes for 1 or 2 days, sometimes for 1 or 2 weeks where he/she gets a favourite naval orange treat as well as other fruit and vegetables.*

*Given the amount of time in care, Kereru's can become quite attached to humans and therefore we need to ensure this is discouraged as the Kereru gets older. Good news is he has stopped flying into the house and landing on the kitchen bench to get fed and is now fully grown and independent. Amazing experience!*

