

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



NZ Morepork – 'Ruru'

Released April 2016

This striking Morepork was found with a suspected head injury after flying into a window of a house.

Head injuries often leave birds feeling a little confused, unable to fly and therefore feed or protect themselves.

ARRC undertook a thorough check to make sure there were no further injuries and then he spent a few days in foster care getting back on his feet (talons) and putting on some weight.

He was released back into a rural wooded area at dusk with a wild Morepork close by helping him back into his natural environment.

FACTS

Native to New Zealand. Part of the Raptor family.

Diet: Insects, small mammals and birds and they hunt at night.

Environment: Found throughout New Zealand, predominantly in forested or wooded areas and in some urban parks and gardens.

Breeding: Nest mostly in holes in trees and logs and/or banks and generally have between 1–3 eggs. The female incubates the eggs and both parents raise the young.



Carer Experience

"Moreporks are a very special bird with a very cute, yet often very grumpy looking face. Their striking eyes never stop following you as you move around them.

They are very wary at all times and if you get too close they will tell you by clicking their beak loudly and puffing up their feathers. When in foster care, we spend as little time as possible around them so as not to frighten them or get them used to people.

Whenever we have Moreporks in rehabilitation, the wild Moreporks come into the garden at night to call and often sit above the aviary. Quite often when we release at dusk, a wild Morepork is not far away to see more of the new addition to the neighbourhood.

Their call, which is where they get their name from, is very haunting and something that the children love to hear at night when tucked up in bed. They often ask "is that one of our Moreporks". We like to think so.

