

Quintessentially Kiwi—what defines us as New Zealanders?

Information sheet: March 2011

Introduction

Be it Whakarewarewa's sulphurous mud pools or the curve of Farewell Spit, nocturnal kiwi, the crimson bloom of Christmas pōhotukawa or the koru that soars with our national airline, as New Zealanders we often identify with our native species and special places in personal ways. Sometimes because of how they define us as Kiwis; sometimes because of their unique place in the world—kākāpō and kōkako are found only in our forests, Maui's dolphins swim only in our seas; the Mount Cook lily grows only in our southern hills.

The Department of Conservation (DOC) would like to know which of our many native species you think help define who we are as New Zealanders, and which of our special places help tell the New Zealand story. Your feedback will help guide DOC's decisions about how it will manage species and places for future generations, and this will be captured in conservation management strategies.

There are many species to choose from—from birds, bats, bugs and bushes, to flowers, frogs, fish, fungi, seals and other marine mammals, not to mention lichens, mosses and molluscs. Which species define New Zealand for you?

Our special landforms are equally diverse—natural features range from the rugged Southern Alps/Kā Tiritiri o te Moana to undulating tussock lands; from steaming geothermal fumaroles to swift flowing streams; from waterfalls to wetlands; from islands to mangroves; from caves to coastlines; and from glaciers to grasslands. Which specific places define New Zealand for you?

What do you think is quintessentially Kiwi?

List up to ten species and up to ten specific places you think are quintessentially Kiwi because they help define who we are as New Zealanders. They do not need to be in any particular order.

Species (e.g. pōhutukawa or kākāpō)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

Places (e.g. Mitre Peak or Cape Reinga)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

More information

For more information, visit the DOC website www.doc.govt.nz/cms.

You can give your list to DOC staff at your local office or email it to cmsnational@doc.govt.nz.

