

Hidden Taonga

>I am a native New Zealand plant or animal. My name is hidden within the words of the sentences below, each of which also provides a clue.

>Can you guess who I am for each sentence?

Example

I was the inspiration for a Maori legend about a great Taniwha leading an unhappy life trapped in Poneke (Port Nicholson).

Answer

I am a whale.

NB: Macrons have been omitted.

1. I am very elegant with my long legs and wings, but I am a shy fellow. You might see me from a distance, further on down a beach from where you play.
2. I am a curious parrot who would put my beak eagerly into your dinner, if you let me.
3. I am a slippery customer; if you manage to catch me, you may not like the way I feel.
4. I flourish in the New Zealand bush, but I also grow up on garden sections too. As I get older my crown will turn silver, just like yours.
5. I am a common green vegetable. All the hapu have me for dinner.
6. I live on the sea floor. My round shape is very distinctive and my colouring is khaki, namely greenish.
7. I belong to the feather and beak iwi, just like you, because what I am, you are too.
8. Actually I am extinct! But I won't moan about it.
9. I am found stuck to the rocks near the seashore, or off on an isthmus seldom visited.
10. I am the Red Pine of New Zealand, but you must guess my name that is spoken in Maori, much more often.
11. I splash again and again into the sea looking for fish for my supper, then I sit on a rock to dry out my wings.
12. You are fortuitous if you hear my beautiful song coming from my perch, probably on the branch of a kowhai tree.