

Manukura and the rata tree

A story by Joseph Potangaroa

translated by Astee Karaitiana

and illustrated by Mikis van Geffen





One morning just before **Tamanui te rā** got up Manukura the **kiwi** was walking around **Pukaha**.

She was out looking for **noke** to eat when drip, drip it started to **ua**. Then it started pouring, soon **tawhirimatea** was howling and then there was a loud clap of **whaitiri**.

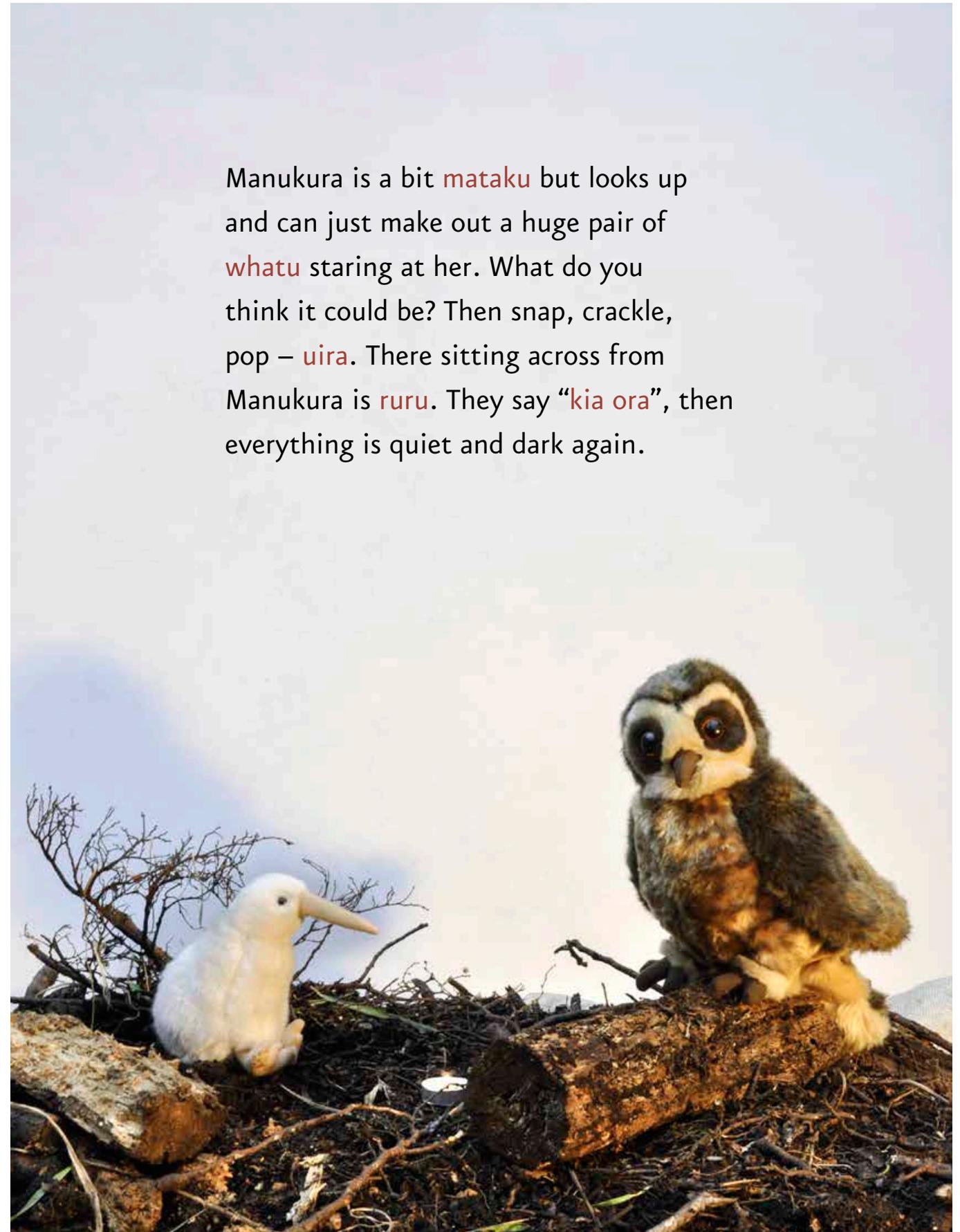
Manukura saw a **rakau rata** where she could keep dry. She walked between the finger like roots into a little **ana** under the **rakau**.

She sat down in the dark thinking she was alone when she heard “**ruru**, ruru, ruru” from up above her.





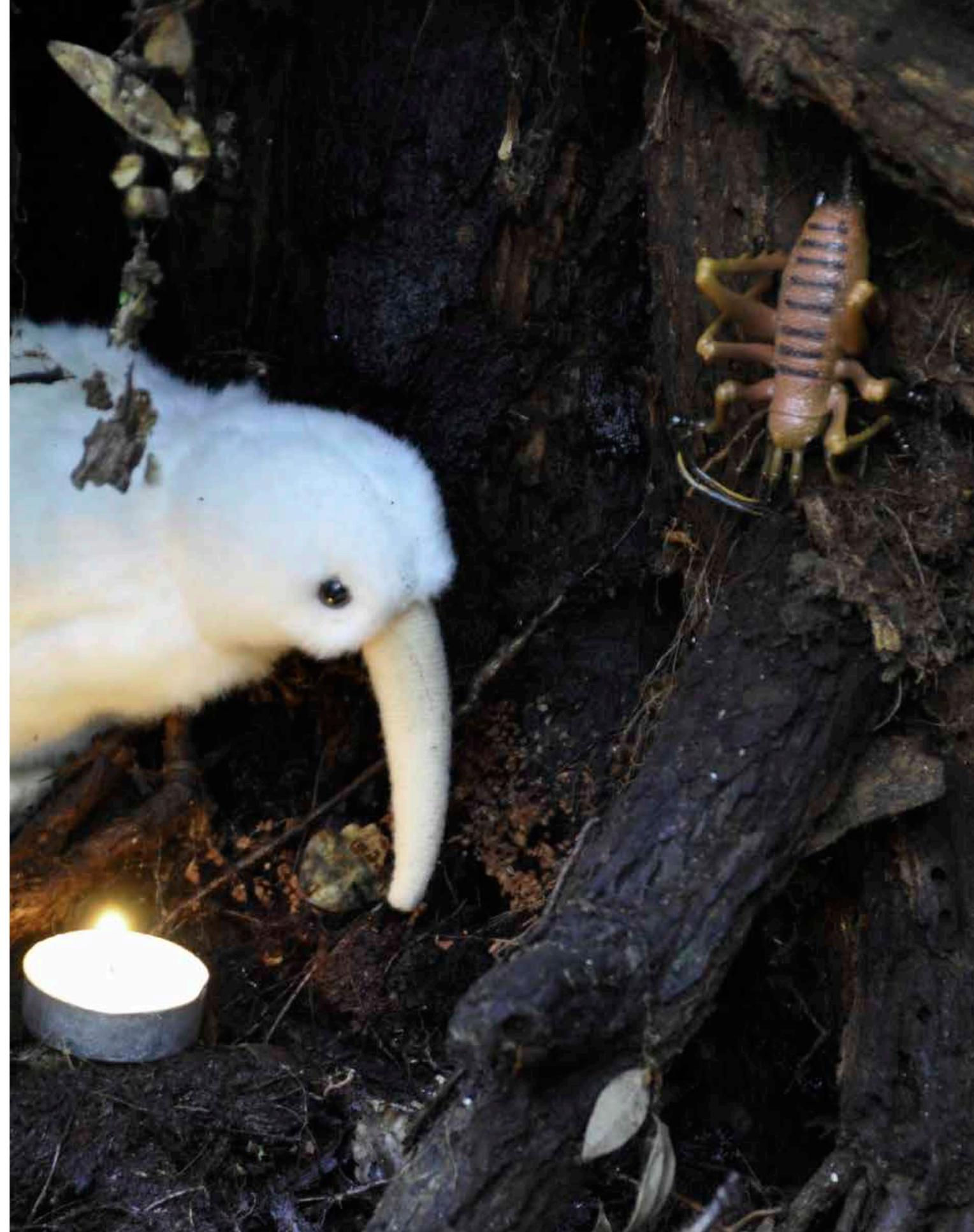
Manukura is a bit **mataku** but looks up and can just make out a huge pair of **whatu** staring at her. What do you think it could be? Then snap, crackle, pop – **uira**. There sitting across from Manukura is **ruru**. They say “**kia ora**”, then everything is quiet and dark again.





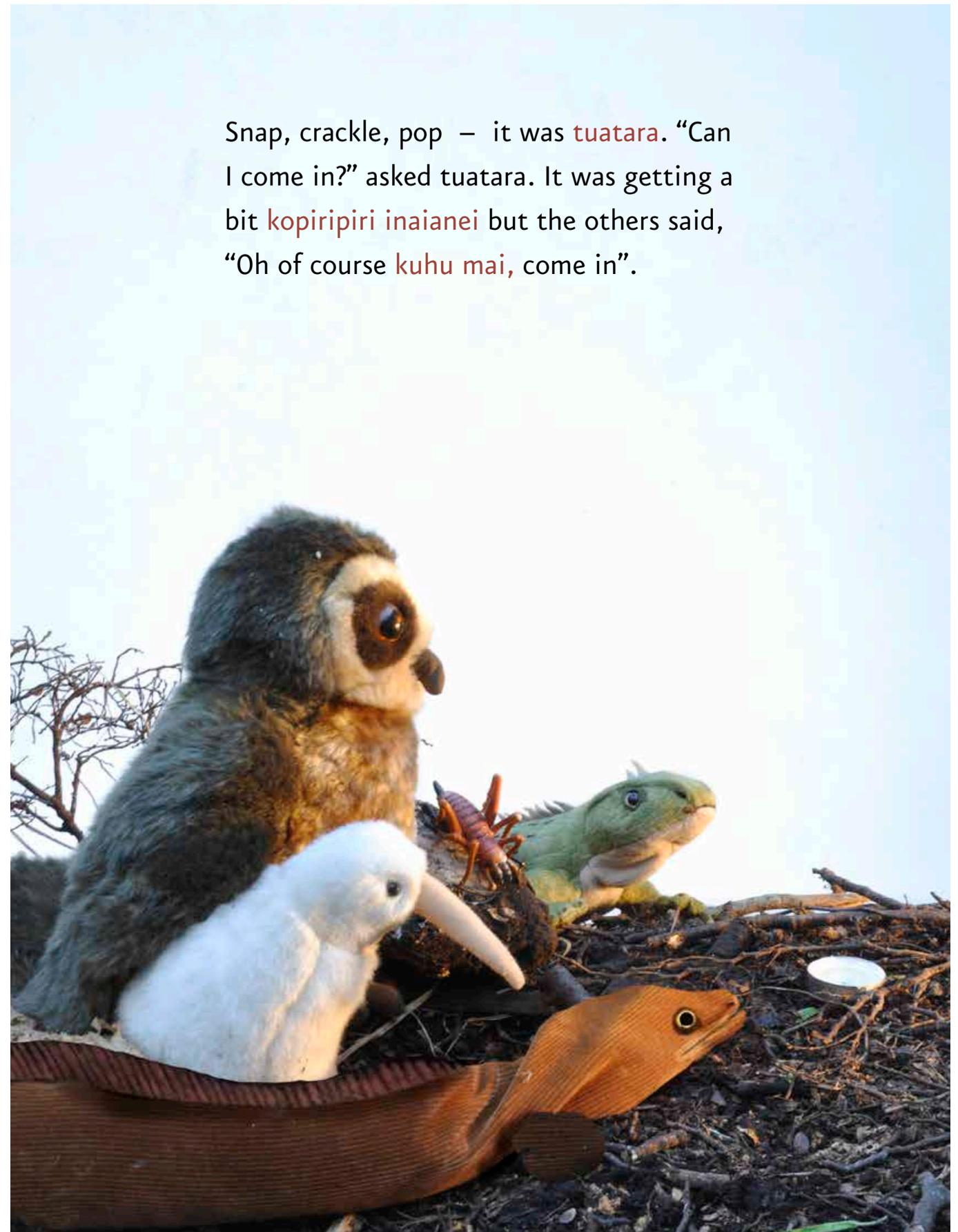
Akuanei Manukura hears slurp, slurp, slurp outside the rakau. In the half light something long slithers into the rakau. What do you think it could be? Then snap, crackle, pop more uira and there is tuna. “Ata marie tuna” says Manukura and ruru. “Ata marie Manukura, ata marie ruru” says tuna.

It is not long before Manukura, **ruru** and **tuna** hear scratch scratch, scratch, scratch. Then they see something climbing upside down up to the **tuanui**. What do you think it could be? Snap, crackle, pop and there is **weta** looking down at the others. “**Ata marie** Manukura, ruru and tuna” says weta. “**Ata marie weta**”.





A few seconds later splish splash splish splash something else comes to the rakau. There at the entrance is something that looks like a mokoweri – What do you think it could be?



Snap, crackle, pop – it was tuatara. “Can I come in?” asked tuatara. It was getting a bit kopiripiri inaianei but the others said, “Oh of course kuhu mai, come in”.

It did not take long before everyone heard plod, plod. Then something **nui** and round stood in the **kuaha**, it was so big that even after snap, crackle, pop no one could see who it was. The new thing came in, sat down and then everyone was really squished.



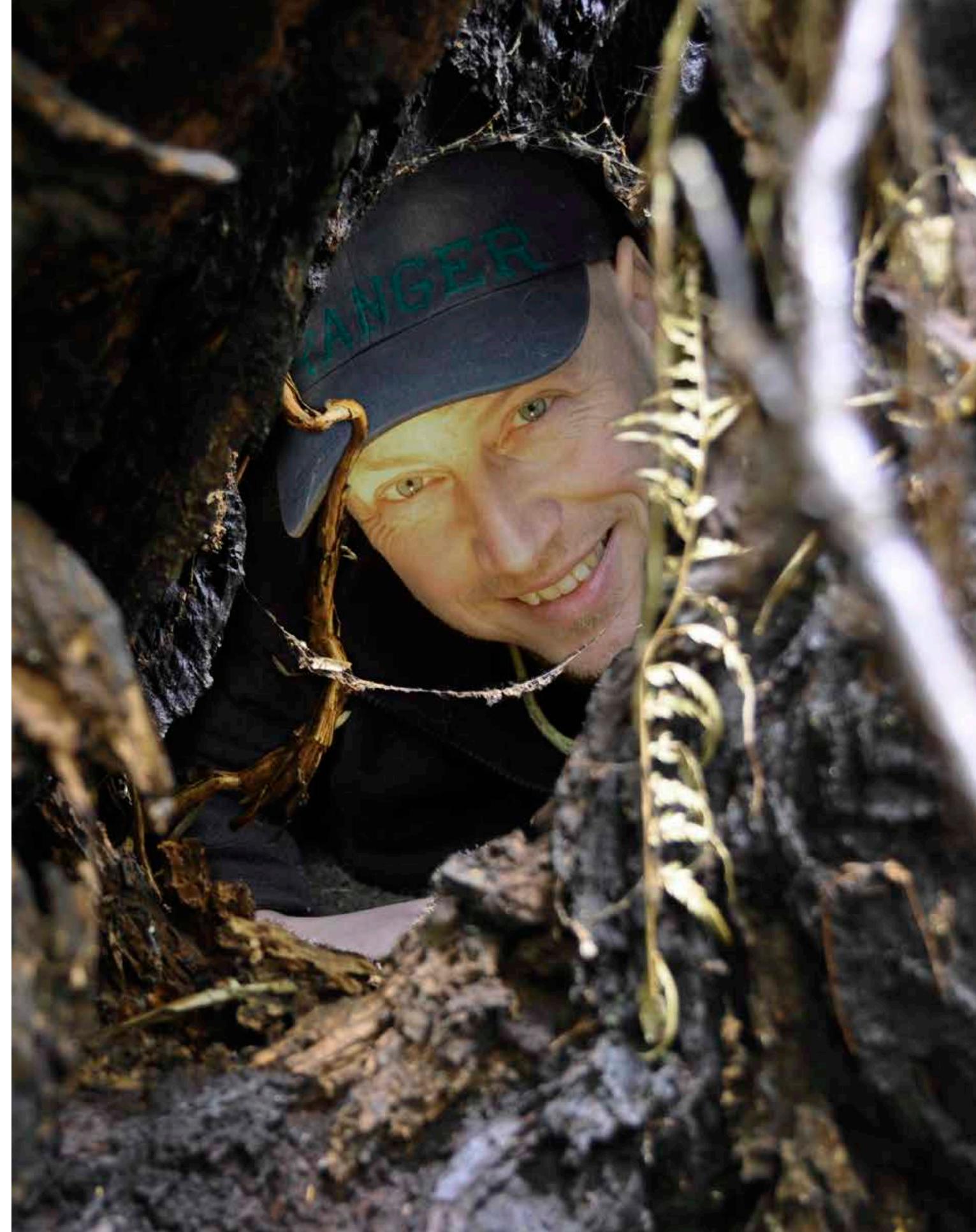
Finally all the **momo kararehe** could hear
“woof, woof, woof”. They thought
“OH NO a **kuri** and we are stuck here”.
Then they heard “sniff, sniff, sniff”
followed by “woof, woof, woof”.
Then they saw a small round light –
What do you think the light was?



Whew it was ranger. He had been looking for **takahe**, the big thing, the last one to come into the **rakau**. Ranger said, “**Kia ora** I did not expect to see you all here”.

“We were getting out of the **ua**,” said everyone all at the same time.

“Oh well it has stopped now **hoki ki te kainga**”, said Ranger.



So plod, plod **takahe** went back to her **pouaka**, splish splash **tuatara** went back to his **kauhanga raro** slurp slurp **tuna** went back to her awa, scratch scratch **weta** went back to his **rakau**, Manukura went back to her **tapa** and **ruru** was able to have her rakau back.



Manukura

Pukaha Mount Bruce is the last major remnant of Te Tapere Nui O Whatonga - The Seventy Mile Bush in northern Wairarapa. Named after Whatonga captain of the ancestral Kurahaupō waka (canoe) it was until the 1870s a huge green blanket filled with endemic flora and fauna. By the early 1900s most of the forest had been cut down to make way for farmland.

Whatonga was grandfather of Rangitāne after whom the Rangitāne o Wairarapa iwi is named. These men lived 26 and 24 generations before 2014 so one can see that Rangitāne has had a relationship with and interest in Pukaha for centuries.

Today Pukaha is the home of New Zealand's National Wildlife Centre, a sanctuary for many species of endemic and native animals. Pukaha Mount Bruce is under the guardianship of a strong partnership between the Pukaha Mount Bruce Board, Rangitāne o Wairarapa and the Department of Conservation.

All of the animals featured on this story can be seen at Pukaha.



A note for teachers

This book has been written to assist teachers to introduce te reo Māori words to children. The words are found throughout the mainly English text. It may be useful to learn the te reo Māori words before reading the book.

GLOSSARY OF WORDS

ana	cave	nui	big
akuanei	soon	pouaka	box
ata marie	good morning	Pukaha	Pukaha Mount Bruce National Wildlife Centre
awa	river		
inaiane	now	rakau	tree
hoki ki te kainga	go home now	rakau rata	rata tree
kauhanga raro	tunnel	ruru	morepork bird
kia ora	hello	takahe	takahe bird
kiwi	kiwi bird	Tamanui te rā	sun
kopiripiri	cramped	tapa	burrow
kuaha	door/entrance	Tawhirimatea	God of wind
kuhu mai	come in	tuanui	roof
kuri	dog	tuna	eel
mataku	afraid	ua	rain
mokoweri	dinosaur	Uira	lightning
momo kararehe	different types of animals	Whaitiri	thunder
noke	worm	whatu	eyes



About this resource

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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This learning resource is one of a series of eight. They have been produced to promote Rangitāne o Wairarapa language, history and tikanga. They have been written for children, mainly for under 5s although the te reo versions especially are suitable for older children and teachers. All eight are written in both English and te reo Māori.

The resources have been written by **Joseph Potangaroa**. Illustrations by **Mikis van Geffen** of Design Unlimited. Translations by **Astee Karaitiana** and **Mike Kawana**.

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