

# THE HIDDEN VALLEY



Behind this fence is a community volunteer project to help restore one of the last remaining areas of native bush in the central city. We are removing weeds, planting natives and trapping pests to encourage our native flora and fauna to thrive again.



Many birds that once lived in the valley (like this Saddleback) moved or died out when the trees were cut. Now the trees are coming back so are the birds. Auckland is lucky to have pest free islands nearby which have growing populations of special birds which we hope to attract to the valley.



The Grey Warbler (Riroriro) is one of New Zealand's smallest birds but it makes up for it with an impressive song. Every week teams of trappers work in the valley to help protect them from Rats and Possums.



Flocks of Tui can be regularly seen and heard in the valley, although they nest here they enjoy feeding in local gardens, their bosterious behaviour and melodic song is a delight to everyone.

Fantails (Piwakawaka) are insectivores. They know you will stir up food for them, so they follow walkers along the tracks in the valley. This one is perched on a stick that a boy held for the photographer.

Pourewa Creek is intertidal. While you walk along its gentle path keep an eye out for Eels, Native fish and Nurseryweb spiders.



Bush in the valley is dominated by Kohekohe. It has white flowers and red fruit that grow directly from its trunk and branches.



Supporting the bird life is an entire ecosystem of creepy crawlies. This fierce looking male Tree Weta has tattoos and ears on his legs.



Upstream Pourewa creek is a nursery for many species of native fish like this Banded Kokopu. Further downstream walkers with keen eyes might spot esturine visitors like Sand Flounder.

