

# Critter of the Week



Photo: Lanipai CC-BY-SA

**Mike Dickison**

**User: Giantflightlessbirds**

*Curator of Natural History  
Whanganui Regional Museum*

*Wanganui  
Chronicle  
13 April 2015*

# Saving species huge challenge

13 Apr, 2015 9:37am

🕒 4 minutes to read

Wanganui Chronicle  
By: Dr Mike Dickison



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HOW DO we choose which of our species to save?

New Zealand has hundreds of endangered species. Some of them are birds, but there are also native fishes, beetles, ferns, lichens, bats, and shrubs at risk of extinction; even an endangered native leech.

The Department of Conservation simply doesn't have enough money to save every endangered species in New Zealand, so we'd better get used to the idea that some will be going extinct on our watch. How do we decide where conservation dollars go to minimise the number of extinctions?

It all started with  
this newspaper  
article...

# "Charismatic" Conservation - Dr Mike Dickison

From **Jesse Mulligan, 1-4pm**, 2:07 pm on 8 April 2015

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A new study says private sponsorship of 'charismatic' species, such as the kakapo or kiwi, has been criticised as being an inefficient use of money. The Proceedings of the Royal Society B paper, says twice as many species could be saved if money was allocated differently. The paper considered funding for 700 of our most threatened species. Dr Mike Dickison is curator of natural history at the Whanganui Regional Museum

Tags:

[conservation](#)

...which led to this radio interview...

...which started the Critter of the Week radio show.

Parks & recreation

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# Critter of the Week

*Every Friday our Threatened Species Ambassador Nicola Toki chats to Jesse Mulligan from Radio New Zealand about the not-so-cuddly critters that need our attention.*

## Little brown moth

**16 March 2018**

This moth is so diminutive and endangered that it doesn't even have a common name.

Clinging to existence in a few coastal sites near Invercargill, the 'little brown moth' will be emerging from as an adult moth over the next couple of weeks.

[Little brown moth on Critter of the Week](#)



Little brown moth

*Photo: Landcare Research CC-BY*



## Critter of the Week: The Bat-winged fly

**Environment** 1 Sep 2017

The Bat-Winged Fly is found in the Paparoa Range south of Fiordland. (AUDIO)

[Listen](#) 12' 23" | [Add to playlist](#) | [Download](#)

Every week a new species was highlighted. Unfortunately, for many of these there was no easily-findable information online.



## Critter of the Week: the Tuatara!

**Environment** 18 Aug 2017

DOC's Threatened Species Ambassador Nicola Toki talks to Jesse about the amazing tuatara in today's Critter of the Week segment. (AUDIO)

[Listen](#) 14' 29" | [Add to playlist](#) | [Download](#)

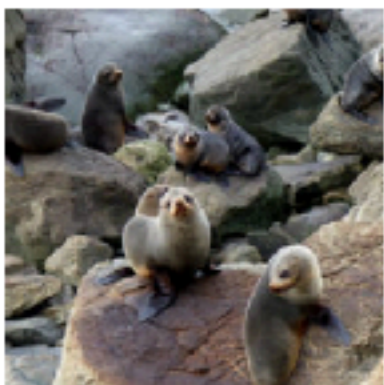


## Critter of the Week: Eldon's galaxiid

**Environment** 4 Aug 2017

Eldon's galaxiid is one of our non-migratory galaxiids. (AUDIO, GALLERY)

[Listen](#) 13' 49" | [Add to playlist](#) | [Download](#)



## Critter of the Week: The Fur Seal

**Environment** 28 Jul 2017

DoC's Threatened Species Ambassador Nicola Toki tells us all about the fur seal. Usually we do the less cutesy critters, but Nicola says the fur seal is sometimes a bit misunderstood and maligned. (VIDEO, AUDIO)

[Listen](#) 14' 02" | [Add to playlist](#) | [Download](#)



# User:Giantflightlessbirds [\[ edit \]](#)



From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

I'm Mike at [giantflightlessbirds.com](http://giantflightlessbirds.com), [Adzebill](#) on [Twitter](#). I'm Curator of Natural History at [Whanganui Regional Museum](#), [Whanganui](#), New Zealand, so take an interest in the [moa](#) articles and other NZ natural history topics. I promote engagement with Wikipedia to heritage and research institutions; this is a place they should be putting public-outreach effort, rather than just creating new websites and databases. Goal: to see a [GLAM-WIKI](#) group in NZ, to encourage edit-a-thons and [Wikipedians in Residence](#).

## Various projects [\[ edit \]](#)

- Set up and ran [Whanganui Wiki Wednesday](#), 2014–2016
- Ran [Wikipedia day](#) at the 2014 [National Digital Forum](#)
- Assisted with the [NZ Craft Artists project](#)
- Ran NDF 2015 [Palmerston North Barcamp session](#)
- Took part in NDF 2015 [Wikipedia panel discussion \(video\)](#)
- Ran Whanganui's [2015 River Week Edit-a-thon](#)
- Joint conference presentation [Wikipedia for Freshwater Scientists](#), 25 November 2015, with [User:StellaMcQ](#)
- [RadioNZ interview](#) 23 Jan 2016, talking to [Kim Hill](#) about Wikipedia's 15th birthday
- [Critter of the Week](#) project (see below)
- Ran 2016 [#NZspecies Te Papa Edit-a-thon](#)
- [How Curators Can Work With Wikipedia](#) workshop at 2016 Curators' Hui
- [Eight Important Wikifacts](#) workshop at 2016 NDF Barcamp
- [Talk](#) at 2016 NDF on "What I learned about Massive Branded Projects from editing Wikipedia".
- Organised the 2017 [Women in Science](#) workshop
- Ran the [New Zealand Insect Cards Edit-a-thon](#)
- Talk at 2017 SCANZ conference on "Wikipedia as an Outreach Tool" ([slides](#))

Luckily, I'm a  
Wikipedia editor.



This user helps out newcomers.

zotero

This user adds inline citations quickly and easily with [Zotero](#).



This user has made a **public declaration** indicating that he has a [conflict of interest](#) with regard to the following Wikipedia article(s):

- [Whanganui Regional Museum](#)



I offered to work with other volunteers to make sure there was a reasonable Wikipedia article for each Critter each week.

izatha caustopa



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About 193 results (0.53 seconds)

### Izatha caustopa - Wikipedia

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Izatha\\_caustopa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Izatha_caustopa)

**Izatha caustopa** is a lichen tuft moth in the family Oecophoridae. It is endemic to New Zealand, where it is known very locally, and very infrequently, from the southern half of the North Island: two specimens collected in 2016 were the first seen for 30 years.

### Izatha - Wikipedia

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Izatha>

**Izatha** is a genus of moths of the Oecophoridae family. They are commonly known as lichen tuft moths. This genus is endemic to New Zealand. Species[edit]. **attactella**-group: **Izatha attactella** Walker, 1864; **Izatha blepharidota** Hoare, 2010; **Izatha voluptuosa** Hoare, 2010; **Izatha austera** (Meyrick, 1884); **Izatha psychra** ...

### 'Elusive' native moth re-discovered after 30 years | Stuff.co.nz

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/environment/.../elusive-native-moth-re-discovered-after-30-years>

Feb 29, 2016 - The rare **Izatha Caustopa** moth has been found by scientists after going missing for 30 years. This photo is of a specimen collected in the first half of the 20th century by George Hudson. To most people, the trap would have contained a pair of small, brown moths. But when entomologist Robert Hoare saw ...

Izatha caustopa



Izatha caustopa is a lichen tuft moth in the family Oecophoridae. It is endemic to New Zealand, where it is known very locally, and very infrequently, from the southern half of the North Island: two ... [Wikipedia](#)

**Scientific name:** Izatha caustopa

**Phylum:** Arthropod

**Rank:** Species

**Order:** [Butterflies and moths](#)

[Feedback](#)

# Wikinerds Explained - Dr Mike Dickison

From **Jesse Mulligan, 1-4pm**, 1:41 pm on 26 February 2016

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If you're wanting to find out more about our Critter Of The Week, you can! Dr Mike Dickison and his fellow 'wikinerds' are working on the Critter Wikipage. Where you can find out more info about the critters we feature. Mike is the curator of natural history at Whanganui Regional Museum.

This was much appreciated, and our Wikipedia efforts got regular coverage on the radio show.





# Wikipedia:WikiProject New Zealand/Requested articles/Critter of the Week [[edit](#)]

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

< [Wikipedia:WikiProject New Zealand](#) | [Requested articles](#)

[RNZ Critter of the Week](#) is a weekly radio broadcast by [Nicola Toki](#) of the NZ Department of Conservation and host [Jesse Mulligan](#) on New Zealand species both endangered and neglected. Each week's broadcast is supported by improving the Wikipedia article for the species in question, as discussed in [this interview](#). This project page exists so Wikipedians can see what needs work, and so interested parties (including the show's presenters) can see what has already been covered.

The *Critter of the Week* project has been proposed as a lightning talk for the [2018 ESEAP Conference](#) in Indonesia, and slides, notes, and video will be linked here if the proposal is successful.

Common name	Latin name	Broadcast	Status
Bonking grass moth	<i>Asaphodes frivola</i>	16 Mar 2018 <a href="#">↗</a>	<b>Created</b>
Toheroa	<i>Paphies ventricosa</i>	9 Mar 2018 <a href="#">↗</a>	(Desperately needs expansion)
Mottled petrel	<i>Pterodroma inexpectata</i>	2 Mar 2018 <a href="#">↗</a>	(Needs expansion)
Te Kakahu skink	<i>Oligosoma tekakahu</i>	23 Feb 2018 <a href="#">↗</a>	<b>Expanded, refs, pic</b>
Paua slug	<i>Schizoglossa novoseelandica</i>	16 Feb 2018 <a href="#">↗</a>	(needs tidying up and more photos)
Prostrate tangle broom	<i>Carmichaelia juncea</i>	9 Feb 2018 <a href="#">↗</a>	(needs creation)
Swamp helmet orchid	<i>Corybas carsei</i>	2 Feb 2018 <a href="#">↗</a>	<b>Created, sourced pics</b>
Cabbage tree moth	<i>Epiphryne verriculata</i>	26 Jan 2018 <a href="#">↗</a>	<b>Added pic and more info</b>
New Zealand native bees	<i>Leioproctus</i>	15 Dec 2017 <a href="#">↗</a>	(Only <i>Leioproctus fulvescens</i> exists)
New Zealand cicadas	<i>Amphipsalta</i> , <i>Rhodopsalta</i> , <i>Maoricicada</i> , <i>Notopsalta</i> , <i>Kikihia</i>	8 Dec 2017 <a href="#">↗</a>	(Genera are all stubs, only a couple of species created)
<b>Ōhau rock daisy</b>	<i>Pachystegia</i>	1 Dec 2017 <a href="#">↗</a>	(needs creation if we can get photos)
Flax snail	<i>Placostylus</i>	24 Nov 2017 <a href="#">↗</a>	(needs cleanup and expansion, and photos)
Long-tailed bat	<i>Chalinolobus tuberculatus</i>	17 Nov 2017 <a href="#">↗</a>	<b>OK</b> (still needs photos)
Giant springtail	<i>Hoiacanthella</i>	10 Nov 2017 <a href="#">↗</a>	<b>created</b>
Cook's scurvy grass	<i>Lepidium oleraceum</i>	3 Nov 2017 <a href="#">↗</a>	(needs pics)
South Island lichen moth	<i>Declana egregia</i>	27 Oct 2017 <a href="#">↗</a>	<b>Created</b>
Giant centipede	<i>Cormocephalus rubriceps</i>	20 Oct 2017 <a href="#">↗</a>	(needs expansion)
Wrybill	<i>Anarhynchus frontalis</i>	13 Oct 2017 <a href="#">↗</a>	<b>OK</b> (needs work)
Chevron skink	<i>Oligosoma homalonotum</i>	6 Oct 2017 <a href="#">↗</a>	<b>Short but OK</b>
Pāua	<i>Haliotis</i>	29 Sep 2017 <a href="#">↗</a>	<b>Reasonable</b>
Hochstetter's frog	<i>Leiopelma hochstetteri</i>	22 Sep 2017 <a href="#">↗</a>	<b>OK</b> (needs updating)
Kakabeak	<i>Glianthus</i>	15 Sep 2017 <a href="#">↗</a>	<b>OK</b> (both spp. need expansion and rewrite)

We coordinated it all with a WikiProject. Now DOC and RNZ use this list and suggestions to help plan Critter of the Week.

Here's an example: the NZ giraffe weevil, our longest beetle.



*Photo: Christina Painting CC-BY-SA*

Here's what the page looked like before it was a Critter of the Week...

# *New Zealand giraffe weevil*

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

This is an **old revision** of this page, as edited by **Giantflightlessbirds** (talk | contribs) at 11:44, 24 March 2016 (→top: Fixed common name). The present address (URL) is a **permanent link** to this revision, which may differ significantly from the **current revision**.

(diff) ← Previous revision | Latest revision (diff) | Newer revision → (diff)

***Lasiorynchus barbicornis*** (sometimes spelled as *Lasiorhyncus barbicornis*), or the **New Zealand giraffe weevil**, is a straight-snouted **weevil** of the **family Brentidae**, **endemic** to **New Zealand**. Its **Māori** name, **tuwhaipapa**, derives from the Māori god of newly made canoes.

The beetles display **sexual dimorphism**; males having a long protrusion on the head with antennae at the end, whilst females have a reduced protrusion with antennae about halfway along. *L. barbicornis* is New Zealand's longest beetle: males measure up to 85mm, and females 45mm.



*Lasiorynchus barbicornis* male and female

## See also

- *Trachelophorus giraffa*, an unrelated species from Madagascar also called Giraffe weevil.

## References

- Te Ara - Encyclopaedia of New Zealand. "**Male Giraffe weevil photo**" .
- Steve Reekie (2005-01-28). **Female "Giraffe weevil**

### *Lasiorynchus barbicornis*



NZ Giraffe Beetle with mites attached to the thorax

### Scientific classification

Kingdom:	Animalia
Phylum:	Arthropoda
Class:	Insecta
Order:	Coleoptera
Superfamily:	Curculionoidea

# New Zealand giraffe weevil [[edit](#)]

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

*For the unrelated giraffe weevil found in Madagascar, see [Trachelophorus giraffa](#).*

The **New Zealand giraffe weevil**, *Lasiorhynchus barbicornis*, is a highly distinctive, straight-snouted [weevil endemic to New Zealand](#). *L. barbicornis* is New Zealand's longest beetle: males measure up to 90 mm, and females 50 mm. In males the elongated snout or rostrum can be nearly as long as the body.

Its [Māori](#) names include *pepeke nguturoa* ("long-beaked beetle"), *tūwhaipapa*, and *tūwhaitara*, the latter two after the Māori god of newly-made canoes, because its canoe-like body and upturned rostrum resemble a [waka](#) and prow.<sup>[1][2]</sup>

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- [Description](#)
- [Life cycle](#)
- [Distribution and habitat](#)
- [References](#)
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And here's what it looks like now.

## Taxonomy [[edit](#)]



This species was described by the Danish entomologist [Johan Christian Fabricius](#) in 1775, from specimens collected by [Joseph Banks](#) in 1769 on [Cook's first voyage](#) to New Zealand, presumably from [Ship Cove in Queen Charlotte Sound](#).<sup>[2][3]</sup> Fabricius described the smaller females

### *Lasiorhynchus barbicornis*



Male New Zealand giraffe weevil

### Scientific classification

Kingdom:	<a href="#">Animalia</a>
Phylum:	<a href="#">Arthropoda</a>
Class:	<a href="#">Insecta</a>
Order:	<a href="#">Coleoptera</a>
Superfamily:	<a href="#">Curculionoidea</a>
Family:	<a href="#">Brentidae</a>
Subfamily:	<a href="#">Brentinae</a>
Genus:	<i><b>Lasiorhynchus</b></i>
Species:	<i><b>L. barbicornis</b></i>

### Binomial name

***Lasiorhynchus barbicornis***  
([Fabricius, 1775](#))



## Suggested edits by Chrissie Painting [ edit ]

Not 100% sure I'm going about this the right way, but I've just read over your fabulous improvements to the page and had a couple of suggestions.

I encouraged one of the scientists studying giraffe weevils to review the article and leave suggestions on the Talk page.

1. Spelling error on line: "but it fact it belongs to the family Brentidae" - change first it to in
2. "closely related species in Australia, Madagascar, and southern South America" - it is true that there are other Brentid weevils in these parts of the world, although the Fauna of NZ series by Kuschel (will send to Mike) suggests that the closest relatives of *Lasiorrhynchus* are in Sulawesi, Australia, Vanuatu and Fiji. Could be worth changing this?
3. " Females lay on a variety of trees, including kauri" - although it has been reported that this species lays eggs on kauri, I'm really doubtful of this. I have looked long and hard for them on kauri and never found any evidence of them using this species as a host tree. I suspect an adult was once found resting on a kauri tree and presumed to be using it as a host. I've got an updated list of host trees in my NZ J Zool paper if you wanted to check, but I think leaving the other ones you have listed is fine.
4. "Adult giraffe weevils generally only live for two weeks, although one male was recorded as living at least 29 days" - I haven't published this yet as still a work in progress but I've done a few years of mark-recapture on these guys and found that it is true they probably have an average lifespan of several weeks, but sometimes live several months (my record is a female that I recaptured after 84 days).
5. "as far south as Westland" - Recently a student at Lincoln Uni found one on a hut woodshed down in Fiordland on the Hollyford Track. Will email the paper.
6. "feeding on dead wood with with the assistance of gut bacteria which digest cellulose." - I think it is likely they might be eating fungus instead of the wood itself. See Brenda May's Fauna NZ series for notes on a dissection done on a giraffe weevil larva. Will email paper.

Looking fantastic otherwise! — Preceding unsigned comment added by 118.92.212.46 (talk) 20:28, 24 March 2016 (UTC)

Those suggestions are all great, Chrissie. I'd caught the fungal diet reference in your paper and changed it. I'll make the rest of the changes; thanks so much for sending those papers through. Updating the information on lifespan has to wait until there's a published source we can cite (everything on Wikipedia has to be referenced, no unpublished research). I'll get to work. It's great when a subject expert can give feedback like this to help improve an article, Giantflightlessbirds (talk) 21:15, 24 March 2016 (UTC)

Righto, have made those edits as much as possible, added the references you supplied, and added two photos. The page is looking pretty good now! Giantflightlessbirds (talk) 08:55, 31 March 2016 (UTC)

We also organised an edit-a-thon to support the Insects of NZ Playing Cards project, to make sure there was an article for all 52 species featured.

# INSECTS <sup>OF</sup> NEW ZEALAND

## •EDIT-A-THON•



## Wikipedia editing workshop

Learn how Wikipedia works in this free one-day workshop. Help us to create and edit articles to improve coverage about our native insect fauna.

- *Lunch provided*
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# INSECTS <sup>OF</sup> NEW ZEALAND

• EDIT-A-THON •



Emma Scheltema CC-BY-SA



Participants included scientists, PhD and Master's students, Wikipedia admins, and a high-school student interested in ants.

Lanipai CC-BY-SA

*Auckland, 3 Sept 2017*

For all these articles, getting good photos is the hardest part.

# *Izatha caustopa* [ edit ]

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

*Izatha caustopa* is a **lichen tuft moth** in the family **Oecophoridae**. It is **endemic** to **New Zealand**, where it is known very locally, and very infrequently, from the southern half of the **North Island**: two specimens collected in 2016 were the first seen for 30 years.

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## Description [ edit ]

*I. caustopa* is brown with a rather large wingspan for the genus: 24–26 mm for males and 29–31.5 mm for females.<sup>[1]</sup> The entomologist **George Vernon Hudson** reared the moths from dead branches of kotukutuku (*Fuchsia excorticata*) collected in **Karori**, Wellington. He noted the larvae "feed during the winter months... driving burrows through the soft wood in all directions"—like most lichen tuft moths, they are probably feeding on fungi. They are full grown by about October.<sup>[2]</sup> Adults have been recorded mostly in January and February, with single records for December and April.<sup>[1]</sup>

## Rarity [ edit ]

*I. caustopa* was discovered in Wellington in the late 19th century. Hudson noted this species was found in a few patches of tree fuchsia at Gollans Valley and Wilton's Bush, **Wellington**; he collected his last specimen in 1942.<sup>[2]</sup> A single specimen was

*Izatha caustopa*



Male



Female

## Scientific classification

Kingdom:	<b>Animal</b>
Phylum:	<b>Arthropod</b>
Class:	<b>Insect</b>





## Summary [ edit ]

**Description** **English:** Male moth, *Izatha caustopa*

**Date** 14 August 2007, 08:40:40

**Source** [Landcare Research](#)

**Author** Birgit E. Rhode

Luckily, NZ institutions Landcare Research and Auckland Museum have both started releasing photos under CC-BY licenses, and one volunteer has been moving them to the Commons,

## Licensing [ edit ]

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## File history

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current	<a href="#">03:57, 21 July 2016</a>		1,000 × 759 (144 KB)	<a href="#">Giantflightlessbirds (talk   contribs)</a>	User created page with UploadWizard

As a result of all these projects, I am now applying for a WMF grant to build Wikimedia awareness with institutions throughout NZ and we can use Critter of the Week as an example.

*More info at*  
*[www.giantflightlessbirds.com](http://www.giantflightlessbirds.com)*  
*[giantflightlessbirds@gmail.com](mailto:giantflightlessbirds@gmail.com)*

## Grants:Project/New Zealand Wikipedian at Large

[< Grants:Project](#)

### Project idea [ [edit](#) | [edit source](#) ]

#### What is the problem you're trying to solve? [ [edit](#) | [edit source](#) ]

**Aotearoa New Zealand** is underrepresented in Wikimedia projects because of our isolation, small population, and small editing community; in many ways coverage of NZ in Wikipedia is 5–10 years behind corresponding articles on Northern Hemisphere countries.

There is little visible Wikimedia presence in Aotearoa; although there are individual editors doing good work, there is no organised editing community, and little opportunity for interested editors to learn and meet others. While edit-a-thons (most organised by me) are increasingly common, the lack of community support means newly-recruited editors often stop contributing. Even something as simple as regular meetup groups to follow up on Wikipedia training workshops would make a difference in editor retention.

There has only ever been a single short [Wikipedian in Residence placement](#) in New Zealand. Consequently, while individuals in the [GLAM sector](#), research institutions, or universities might be interested in what Wikimedia projects have to offer, there is a shortage of experienced editors able to work with them on strategies to engage with

*status* **proposed**

### Project Grants

#### New Zealand Wikipedian at Large

*summary*

A series of short Wikipedian in Residence stints in GLAM sector, research, and educational organisations throughout New Zealand, while establishing face-to-face meetup groups to support new editors.

*target*

English Wikipedia, Wikimedia Commons, Wikidata

*type of grant*

offline programs and events

*amount*