



During the July school holidays, we stayed with Grandma and Grandad in One Tree Point. Grandma suggested we visit the Whangarei Native Bird Recovery Centre. Mummy organised to meet owner Robert Webb, who has been rescuing birds for over 30 years.



9-7-2020



Robert and Robyn Webb, the founders of the bird rescue centre.



At the centre, we were greeted by Robert, who suggested we start with viewing the birds in their enclosures. Eden was delighted to hear one of the tui's talking – saying 'Hi tui', 'Are you cold?' and whistling 'Pop Goes the Weasel'. The recovery centre is well-known for the late Woof Woof, the talking tui, who could mimic Robert's voice. Whilst looking at the recovering birds, several released tui and waxeye came to feed on the fruits in the surrounding trees.



When we next saw Robert, he was holding a kiwi! It had been badly injured by a car. Robert had spent months nursing it back to health. Eden was able to touch the kiwi. Robert showed her that the top feathers were coarse and the underneath ones were so soft. He even showed us the little stumpy wing. We were all so privileged to get to stroke this amazing kiwi.



Robert then took us to the education room, where he presents talks to school children. He showed Eden and Ryan around, looking at the different creatures and photos.



During our visit, Eden read her prepared questions to Robert, in an interview. She did a great job with her reading. We found out so many fascinating facts about Robert's time rescuing different animals. We were so impressed by his efforts in not only helping native birds, but his work to educate people about conservation.



Eden had the best time visiting Robert and the birds. We left feeling inspired, passionate and in awe of Robert and the team and the Native Bird Recovery Centre.

