

Book Review

Te Taiao Māori and the natural world

(2011). Te Ara - Encyclopedia of New Zealand.

Te Taiao Māori and the Natural World is set out beautifully and would be an excellent addition for a waiting room or coffee table.

It looks into the relationship between Māori and the natural environment. In it, Māori scholars and writers share traditional knowledge that's been passed down through the generations.

It's the type of book that you could dip into rather than read cover to cover but once you have explored one page you may be tempted to peruse further. The photographs are beautiful and the subject matter includes the natural world, Māori cultural philosophy and historical accounts.

Book has wide appeal

It's an informative and educational book, while being emotive with beautiful landscapes. It reminds me of much that I have learned about Māori culture since I arrived in New Zealand as a child and I think that it would be beneficial to anyone who is interested in New Zealand.

This book could be beneficial to all, from young Māori who are expressing interest in their heritage, their classmates and people who are new to this country, to those already knowledgeable in the subject matter. This book can be a starting point or a reminder.

It also has a good glossary of Māori words and plant and animal species names (Māori and scientific).

It's a very interesting read for school-aged students and above and definitely is a book you will pick up often.

Reviewed by Katherine Morris, librarian at Okarito Community Library.

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