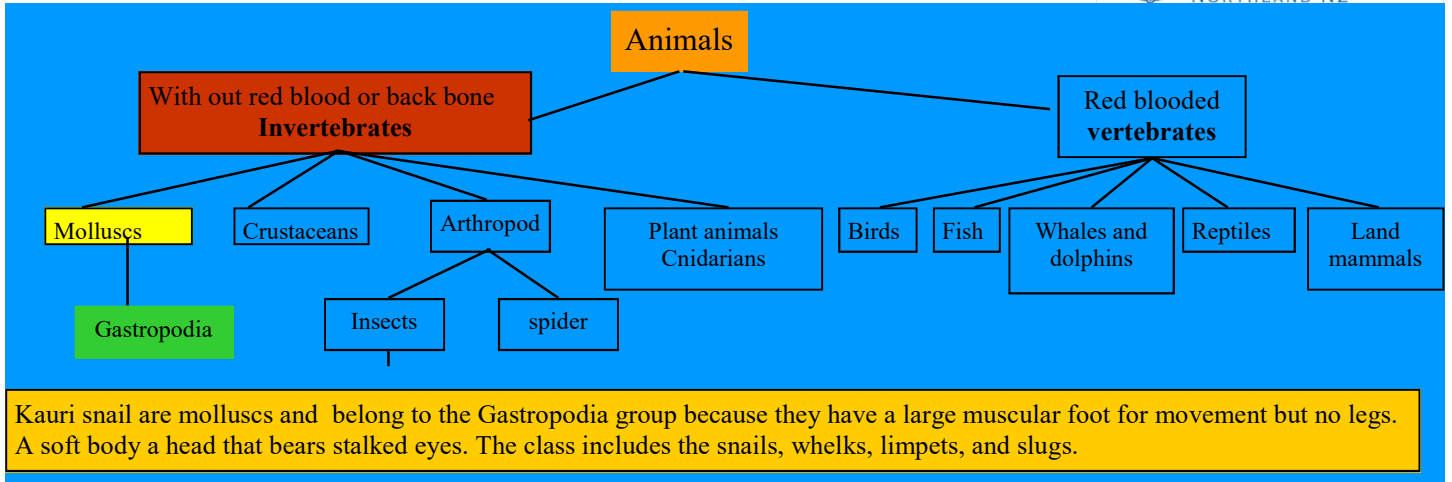


Molluscs—Kauri Snail

To be used with the Tangihua lions lodge program



Kauri snail are molluscs and belong to the Gastropodia group because they have a large muscular foot for movement but no legs. A soft body a head that bears stalked eyes. The class includes the snails, whelks, limpets, and slugs.

All Snails have these Characteristics

What do you think?



This snail or mollusc has these characteristics

- A shell
- Eyes on stalks
- A big foot

The Kauri snail in the photo lives just beside the lodge. Sometimes it can be seen hunting on the bush edge or even out in the grass at night especially if it is wet. This snail is about 10 years old and is called Paryphanta Busbyi.

Where do Kauri Snail Live ?

Who eats Kauri Snail?

When do Kauri Snail come out ?

What do Kauri Snail eat ?

How long to Kauri snail live for?.....

How can we save our Kauri Snails from extinction?.....

.....

Kauri Snail

To be used with the Tangihua lions lodge program



They are among the largest snails in the world, and also among our most threatened invertebrates. These giants were once widespread in Northland before human settlement. Many of them are now endangered or threatened, and inhabit a more restricted area of Northland and the islands offshore.

[Kauri snails can be found in the Tangihua ranges around the lodge](#)

Kauri snails exist only in Northland New Zealand .

They were once widespread through out Northland before human settlement altered or destroyed their habitat. In the remaining suitable habitats pests such as rats, pigs and possums have decimated the populations.

[Where do Kauri snails like to live?](#)

This type of Kauri snails, *Paryphanta Busbyi*, range is from Kaitia south to just above Auckland.

The best habitat for Kauri snails are fertile soil with lots of humus because that is where earth worms and other insects live that they like to eat. They need to be in the bush or very long grass where it is damp.

Kauri snail are called Kauri snail because they live in forests that had lots of big Kauri trees. They do not live under Kauri trees as Kauri trees take all the nutrients out of the soil and their leaves do not make good compost and so there are not many worms living under them

[What do Kauri snails eat?](#)

Kauri snails are carnivorous and cannibalistic, they eat other snails, earthworms, insects, insect larvae, and slugs. They hunt for their prey at night sneaking up on it and sucking it into their mouths. Kauri snail have about 10,000 teeth, they are in 104 rows of about 100 teeth in each row. (see video on website)

[How long do Kauri snails live for](#)

Not very long if there are rats and possums about. These snails belong to the oldest family of land snails on earth, dating back 200 million years. Some giant snails can live for 20 years or more.

[Breeding](#)

Mating appears to be triggered by climatic conditions, such as rainfall, and can last for 10 hours or more.

They lay hard, limy-shelled eggs about 13mm long. 10 to 12 eggs are laid in nests on the forest floor under leaf mould and tend to be at the foot of large trees. On hatching snail hatchlings spend an unknown period living in trees and shrubs up to 6 metres above the ground.

[Why are Kauri snail hard to find](#)

Kauri snails once common are becoming rare and difficult to find. As you walk the tracks around the lodge you will find empty and broken shells. This is a result of introduced predators such as possums, rats and pigs.

Kauri snails are nocturnal so only come out at night and during the day hide under the forest debris.

Kauri snails are highly mobile for snails and have been known to move 10 metres in 2 weeks but are easy prey for the much quicker mammals.

[What do we need to do to so Kauri snails and other native snails can survive](#)

For Kauri snail to survive we must remove or reduce the numbers of predators such as rats, possums and pigs We are going to do this by setting up a conservation program that will include bait stations for rats, possum, traps for cats and mustelids. Local pig hunters will take care of the pigs.

