

Dominion Post: 'Your Weekend' – Saturday July 18th 2011

VISIONS OF NATURE

by Trevor Penfold

Perfect Planet Publishing, \$58

It could have gone wrong. This hardback photographic book centred on Raglan, on the North Island's west coast, is designed to inspire the environmentalist as well as the budding wildlife photographer. It assumes basic photographic knowledge. Given that setting, the reader could have been pulled in too many directions or become isolated by its tight geographic focus. But it works beautifully.

The reader is drawn into its pages by stunning landscapes, graceful birds and haunting close-ups of creepy crawlies. The commentary completes the connection. In particular, Penfold's hours of investment in watching birdlife have paid off. Their character comes alive through exquisite composition and the clever use of light. For the technically minded, there's the chance to repeat Penfold's camera settings. This book makes you wonder what is happening in your own backyard and gives you a glimpse of the awe it might inspire.

by David Williams

