

Waikato Times – Arts Diary

April 4th 2013

'Wild Behaviour – a New Zealand Perspective'

by Trevor Penfold (Perfect Planet Publishing \$58)

This is a newly released hardback book by award-winning photographer Trevor Penfold.

He has captured stunning images of many of New Zealand's native and endemic species through the lens of his camera. It is more than a pictorial record, though, as Penfold describes the animals, their behaviour and the challenges they presented to the job of capturing them on camera.

The photos are artistically realised, some with almost abstract motifs, where movement and colour and pattern interact.

The book incorporates delightful diary-type entries for each photo, reflecting on the moments in the life of photographer and wildlife study and some of the behaviours of the subjects: "I cradled my camera ...and using my elbows pulled myself across the wet sand ...I couldn't believe what I witnessing. With beaks locked, the two chicks [variable oystercatchers], that must have been only days old, pushed and pulled each other, neither willing to concede defeat."

This is a beautiful book that also fulfils the author's aim of raising awareness of the importance of using the environment in a sustainable way.

by Lynne Robinson

