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Trevor Penfold: Visions of Nature – New Zealand's Wild in the West

Raglan-based wildlife photographer Trevor Penfold has pulled together a stunning collection of 169 images ranging from landscapes, to birds, insects and spiders all taken on the west coast.

The superbly produced 176 page large-format book will appeal to nature lovers who want a closer look at the world that surrounds them, without having to brave the elements or get their feet wet.

The blow-ups of tiny creatures like the common blackheaded jumping spider bring you closer than you ever thought possible.

The shots of flies and grasshoppers mating, butterflies emerging from their cocoons and highly magnified focus-stacked images of a praying mantis grooming itself and the bug eyes of a damsel fly are the most arresting.

Penfold set out to showcase the diversity of wildlife inhabiting the west coast and to raise awareness of using the environment in a sustainable way. He also hopes to stimulate and encourage other photographers.

As he says at the end of the book, “mission accomplished”. Anyone venturing into the wilderness after studying this will find it difficult not to stop and bend over for a closer look at even the smallest of creatures, even the alien-like prickly stick insect.

by: Nigel Carter

