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Vivid views of life on Raglan's wild west

by Rachael Goddard

Visions of Nature – New Zealand's Wild in the West by Trevor Penfold (Perfect Planet Publishing, \$58.00). Reviewed by Rachael Goddard.

Visions of Nature is a collection of appealing and well captured photographic wildlife images centred in and near Raglan's west coast, with commentary from the photographer as he explains each shot, how it was taken, plus some subject information.

Trevor Penfold is a wildlife and nature photographer who links subject to environment in an endeavour to raise awareness.

While many of the images are stunning and reveal the beauty and diversity of the natural surroundings on our doorstep, as a scientist (and not a photographer) I would have appreciated more information on natural history, geology, and biology of the animals and places.

The photos are rich, especially the close-ups of the insects in the 'Larger Than Life' section which displays invertebrates magnified, detailing eyes and body parts and covering some biology and behaviour. There are some stunning shots of the praying mantis and close-up of damsel fly eyes.

Residents and visitors to Raglan will recognise many of the quintessential landscapes. A nice book to adorn most coffee tables, and a visual reminder of the unique wildlife New Zealand has.

Rachael Goddard is a Waikato environmental scientist.

