

Nature in the City

Take a walk in Mangaiti Gully

CAN YOU FIND ALL THE TREASURES?

Walking time: 30 - 40 minutes

- 1 Can you see any eels? Both the endangered longfin eel and more common shortfin eel have been found in this stream. These guys travel a long way and spend some of their life at sea.
- 2 Check out the large rimu tree. Rimu trees only fruit every few years. Did you know the breeding success of the kaakaapoo, our endangered native parrot is closely related to years that rimu produce lots of fruit.
- 3 The rare *astelia grandis* - this plant prefers to live on swampy gully floors, so it's known as swamp astelia. Mangaiti is one of the few special places where this plant grows naturally.
- 4 Notice the pools of water in the stream? This is good habitat for the native banded kookopu. They are very good climbers and can climb up vertical rock faces as long as the rocks are wet... does that sound easy?
- 5 Kawakawa is an important medicinal plant for Maaori. It's said the best leaves are the ones with lots of holes in them, as they have the most medicinal properties. The orange/yellow fruit ripens in summer and is loved by our native geckos.
- 6 Look and listen for piwakawaka (fantail) here. These guys eat small invertebrates like moths and flies. They will often follow you when you're walking, and feast on the bugs you disturb with your feet.
- 7 Stand on the bridge and look back at the bush you've just walked through - can you see the bat boxes high in the trees? The pekapeka-tou-roa (long tailed bat) lives here. Its as small as your thumb, with a wingspan the same as your hand and weighs the same as a \$2 coin!

