

Kids can help save the kererū and backyard birds too

Shifting seasons means temperature changes, which affect the kererū's food supply. The toromiro tree used to have ripe fruit in May and June but it now ripens in spring. Without their traditional winter fruit, the kererū often starves. We must look after them.



Use these 10 great tips to keep our birds healthy and happy:

1

Feed the birds whenever you can.

- Kererū eat fruit so remove any blemishes from imperfect fruit like apples and pears, then skewer them onto twigs and branches birds can reach.
- Backyard birds love *Wild Bird Seeds* from the supermarket.



Ann Russell

2

Provide fresh water daily for birds to drink and to keep themselves clean. The best bird bath has a rough surface so birds can grip it. A pot plant under-liner, shallow bowl or saucer is great, because for bird safety reasons, the water should be no more than 2.5 cm to 5 cm deep. Place the dish securely up high, on a stand or post, away from predators. So the birds can feel safe, ensure they have a clear view of the environment around them.

The remaining 8 tips can be found in - 'Little Truff and the Kereru', a book written by Ann Russell, available from www.annrussellbooks.com

Gravette Plant