Over the past 6 years Sparky my Kiwi and I are invited to New Plymouth to visit Schools, over the two days we see around 1000 children which is around five schools.

Traveling by car would be too hard on Sparky so our kind sponsors from Air Nelson fly us there and back all the way from Whangarei.

We support the East Taranaki Environment Trust, who is working on kiwi being returned to the wild in the area, the Department of Conservation have a stand plus the Taranaki Regional Council, each class spends around 10 minutes with each group so it offers a very high impact for the Schools.

As a rule I fly out of Whangarei around 7.00am getting to Auckland at 7.30am, the connecting flight to New Plymouth leaves at 9.30am, while I wait I take Sparky across the road from the terminal by a big car park, there is a strip of grass which goes for quite a distance and full of fat worms for Sparky.

Cars coming to the airport drive right past us and are not allowed to stop so it’s quite funny when a driver sees a live kiwi on the grass.

Sparky is very safe and because he has done this so often any noise is nothing to him he just wants those big fat worms, we get quite a few people after parking at the Airport come across the road to have a look.

One visitor could not believe what he saw, he was an older guy and a Pilot all dressed in his uniform, he had never seen a kiwi so when I said go and touch him he said can you take my photo as no one would believe him, I said that’s a good idea because if you said there was a live Kiwi walking around outside they may stop you from flying thinking your mind was failing.

It’s quite sad when you see just how many people have never seen a live Kiwi let alone be able to touch one considering it’s our National Icon, which just shows the Education on these trips is for all ages.

The Giant Petrel that we had made a full recovery, I had our friends from Dive Tutukaka take him out to the Poor Nights for release, I had him in a big cardboard box and once on the dive boat he could smell the water and was starting to pull the box apart wanting to get out, this provides plenty of entertainment on the trip to the nights for the divers on board, some of the Skippers let them walk around while going out.

The past few weeks we have recovered and released 4 Native Pigeons, 5 Moreporks and 3 Harrier Hawks, seeing any Wild Bird being set free is the best reward one can ask for.

A big thank you to those that took notice of my last column, if you want to read our columns go to our web site [www.nbr.org.nz](http://www.nbr.org.nz) and you can find them all there.

Robert and Robyn Webb.