



Letter from Wingspan

Dear Teachers

Our fastest bird, called the New Zealand Falcon or Kārearea, is found only in New Zealand. It is a threatened species that number fewer than kiwi. Less than 4000 pairs remain. (You may have seen Kārearea on the New Zealand \$20 banknote – the 'green' one.)

The good news is that support for Kārearea, whose highest population density occurs in commercial pine plantations – in particular the Kaingaroa Forest - is coming from forest companies and from **Kleenex**® Tissues as part of their commitment to Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) certification.

FSC is a broadly-scoped, internationally-recognised hallmark of responsible forest management. Weblinks in the lesson plan will navigate through to more information about FSC.

Kleenex® Tissues have partnered with Wingspan to develop this new **Sneezesafe**® Healthy Forests lesson plan which is free for teachers to download at www.sneezesafe.co.nz and adapt within the 'Living World' and 'Participating and Contributing' parts of the Level 3 Science Curriculum.

The lesson will help build New Zealand children's knowledge about healthy pine forests and helping Kārearea.

Exactly how do forest companies and tissue makers help keep pine forests safe and healthy for people and for falcons?

Wingspan works closely with forestry companies who manage and source wood from pine forests to ensure that the falcons who nest and hunt there are safe. During the nesting season in spring and summer forest workers keep an eye on the falcons, move their machinery away from nest sites, and sometimes help Wingspan to rescue eggs. If eggs or chicks are in danger, these are transported to Wingspan where they are looked after.

In the intensive care unit at the Wingspan Centre there are incubators and brooders set up, ready for the arrival of any eggs or chicks that need special assistance. With the help of **Kleenex**® Tissues, Wingspan has recently been able to upgrade to the latest technology in infant bird care.

So **Kleenex**® Tissues are helping the falcons on two fronts: they are investing in new incubation equipment at the Centre and also buying FSC-certified and FSC-controlled pine internationally for their production sites, including some grown in the Kaingaroa Forest.

At Wingspan we have learnt that the presence of New Zealand Falcons in a forest shows that the environment is balanced, and is healthy. It is very important that we have healthy forests, not only for Kārearea but for humans too.

Big green trees with woody trunks release oxygen into the environment. So not only do healthy forests help Kārearea to survive they also, on a mass scale, allow people to keep breathing.

Kei te ora nga karearea, kei te ora tatou katoa. (Translation: If the falcons are alive we are alive.)



www.wingspan.co.nz