




PROJECT HUIA

DES HUNT

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Format	198 x 128 mm
Extent	
Age	8-12 years
Lexile	TBC

Des Hunt lives at Matarangi on the Coromandel Peninsula. Some years ago he made the transition from writing textbooks for secondary students to novels for younger readers (shortlisted for NZ Post awards three times), while still maintaining his aims of fostering young peoples' natural interest in the science of their surroundings. Des has authored 14 books in this genre.



A widely respected figure in New Zealand educational circles, Des was a teacher for more than forty years before retiring from the classroom in 2006.



Also by Des Hunt:
The Last Tuatara
 (formerly *The Secret of Jelly Mountain*
 first published 2009)
 978-1-77543-177-0
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Is the huia really extinct?

As children, Logan's grandfather and his sister Mavis spotted a beautiful and unusual bird in the kowhai tree outside their house: it was a huia, which was believed to be extinct. In an attempt to photograph it they tracked it deep into the Manawatu Gorge. This was a dangerous journey, made even more so when the Carson boys got wind of their mission and decided to try and find the bird first so they could shoot it and sell its highly valuable feathers.

More than 60 years later, 11-year-old Logan has returned to the Manawatu with Grandpop and a scientist to try to solve the mystery of what happened to the huia all those years ago. Can the group rely on Grandpop's version of events, and find the huia's final resting place? Will the huia still be there, and will its DNA still be valuable for scientific research into NZ's native fauna? Not if the Carsons have anything to do with it ...

- Well respected author, with three titles having been shortlisted for the NZ Post Children's Book Awards
- NZ-based adventure story with an ecological bent
- Well written and exciting story, with a hint of intrigue and secrets from the past
- Des Hunt has authored 14 books in this genre

Praise for *The Secret of Jelly Mountain*

"A fast-paced mystery that will leave readers hooked."
 — *Reading Time*

"As always with Des Hunt's novels, the scientific and technical details are well developed within the plot, and there is a rollickingly dramatic conclusion." — Trevor Agnew, *The Source*

"Des Hunt's action packed adventures with a New Zealand setting and an ecological twist are proving firm favourites."
 — *Storylines*



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