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FOR Look out Lizards Wellington Region

- ### What You Can Do
- Make your garden lizard friendly. Plant:
 - Low growing and clump forming plants like toe toe, *Astelia* and flax
 - Dense climbers (but not weeds)
 - Divaricating (many branched) native plants
 - Nectar producing plants like manuka, flax, lacebark, rata, *Pittosporums*
 - Create spaces for lizards to live:
 - Rock piles
 - Logs and debris in garden
 - Leave areas of deep leaf litter and mulch
 - Reduce use of chemicals and sprays
 - Lizards eat insects and drink nectar!
 - Control predators
 - Especially rats, mice and stoats
 - Be responsible pet owners
 - Cats are very good lizard predators and can easily wipe out local lizard populations.



- Lizards need to be safe from predators in undisturbed places like:
- Grassy weedy areas
 - Shady moist areas – leaf litter
 - Rotting logs or old piles of timber or stones
 - Stacks of bricks, pavers or rock piles
 - Crevices in walls and sheds
 - Trees
 - Clay banks
 - Established foliage bushes

How you can Help

Injured wildlife
DOC hotline ph. 0800 362 468
Lizards requiring treatment can be taken to Wellington Zoo (The Nest) Ph. 04 381 6755

Get information
Join the NZ Herpetological society
<http://www.reptiles.org.nz/>

Join a local conservation group
Search Nature Space <http://www.naturespace.org.nz/>

Join a Predator-Free Suburb
Search Facebook (Predator-Free + Suburb Name)

Record your sightings
Naturalist naturalist.nz
Department of Conservation tinyurl.com/report-a-sighting

- ### Native and Special
- New Zealand has around 100 species of native lizards
 - At least 13 of these species (6 gecko and 7 skink) live in the Wellington region. However, only 10 (including Whitakers) are still present on the mainland
 - All native NZ lizards (except for one skink species) give birth to live young and are slow to reproduce
 - They have a long life – native geckos have been found in the wild over 50 years old
 - Having evolved without mammalian predators they are easy prey for cats, rats and mice
 - NZ lizards eat insects, fruit and nectar
 - Lizards are important for our native ecosystems as:
 - tiny predators (eating insects and bugs)
 - prey (food for native birds)
 - pollinators and seed dispersers of many native plants



Skinks and Geckos – whats the difference?



Things to look out for:

- #### Skinks
- Slender and shiny like a snake with legs
 - No obvious neck
 - Eyes that blink
 - Narrow toes



- #### Geckos
- Loose baggy skin like suede
 - Have a 'neck'
 - Large round eyes that don't blink – they lick their eyes to clean them
 - Often have wide toe pads

In Trouble

Over 80% of New Zealand's native lizards are **Threatened** or **At Risk**.

Many are now restricted to offshore islands or areas with intensive predator control.

AT RISK



- Lizards are at risk from:
- **Predators**
Cats, rats, mice, hedgehogs and mustelids (stoats, ferrets, weasels)
 - **Habitat destruction**
Subdivision, construction, landscaping
 - **Illegal collection and smuggling**
 - **Competition and displacement**
from introduced lizards (plague skink)

All Native lizards are protected under the WILDLIFE ACT 1953. This means they cannot be collected or kept without a permit. It is also an offence to kill them or destroy their habitat. Please consider our native lizards when removing vegetation or doing earthworks.

! Plague Skink (Australian Invader)

Plague skinks or rainbow skinks come from Australia and are spreading through NZ. They are not currently present in the Wellington region, although they have been found in Manawatu.

- They lay eggs and are able to reproduce quicker than our native species.
- Plague skinks are inquisitive and hitch rides in plants, luggage, etc.
- They are known to lay eggs in potting mix and garden materials.
- Contact the DOC hotline if you see small eggs like these.



Lampropholis delicata

Further information: <https://tinyurl.com/plague-skink>

Local Lizards

Wellington Region

Photos: ©Trent Bell
[NOT TO SCALE]



Goldstripe gecko

Woodworthia chrysosiretica
(Moko mangaeka)

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Duvaucel's gecko

Hoplodactylus duvaucelii

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Minimac gecko

Woodworthia "Marlborough mini"



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Barking gecko

Naultinus punctatus



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Ngahere gecko

Mokopirirakau "southern North Island"



Raukawa gecko

Woodworthia maculata



Copper skink

Oligosoma aeneum



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McGregor's skink

Oligosoma macgregori



REGIONALLY EXTINCT

Robust skink

Oligosoma alani



Northern grass skink

Oligosoma polychroma



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Northern spotted skink

Oligosoma kokowai



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Glossy brown skink

Oligosoma zelandicum



THREATENED

Whitaker's skink

Oligosoma whitakeri



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Ornate skink

Oligosoma ornatum



Lizard Habitats

Native lizards live in a wide variety of habitats from forests and beaches to isolated islands

