

Ngaokeoke – Velvet Worms – Peripatus



Ngaokeoke found at Whareroa 2014

**“P is for peripatus, velvet worm, the missing link
An animal (at least that’s what we think)**

**Not widely known,
but world renown**

For habits and features it stands alone

It roams at night

It kills its prey

Jets of toxic saliva it does spray”.

David Agnew DoC Otago

Velvet Worms - Ngaokeoke - Peripatus have been around for 500 million years and are thought to be the evolutionary link between wriggly worm like things with no legs to creatures that have legs.

They are between 2– 8 cm long, live up to 5 years and one sort gives birth to live young i.e. no egg stage occurs.

They live in damp dark places like rotten logs and hunt insects and worms at night.

