

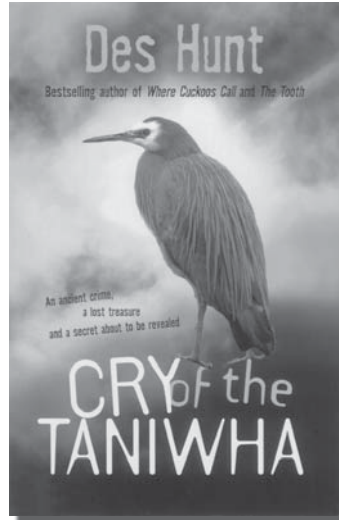


New Zealand Post  
**CHILDREN'S  
BOOK AWARDS**

**2010  
FINALISTS**



# JUNIOR FICTION



## **Cry of the Taniwha**

Des Hunt

HarperCollins Publishers

ISBN 978-1-86950-731-2 pb RRP \$18.99

Target age 9+

Matt Logan is reluctant to spend the school holidays in Rotorua with his grandmother and new step-grandfather. While there he meets Juzza, who lives over the back fence and wants to join a local gang. When the boys unearth a handcuffed skeleton, together they are thrown into a deadly search for treasure when the local gang boss decides to exploit their find for himself.



**Des Hunt** lives at Matarangi on the Coromandel Peninsula. He aims to foster young peoples' natural interest in the science of their surroundings by visiting schools and libraries where he runs workshops and presentations. Des is particularly interested in encouraging ways of using technologies such as digital electronics and DNA chemistry to assist the conservation of New Zealand's endangered species.

### **Great Activity and Event Ideas**

1. Write a diary entry as a tourist / visitor to the famous Pink and White Terraces which were destroyed when Mt Tarawera erupted.
2. Describe what it would be like as a survivor of the Tarawera eruption.
3. Since a Taniwha is believed to take on various forms/ guises, draw a picture of what YOU think it might look like. Create a 3-D version of a Taniwha. Use whatever materials you think would work well.
4. Research gangs in New Zealand. What kinds of values and ideas do they represent? Are all gangs involved in crime and violence? Run a class debate or discussion on the topic "All Gangs Should be Outlawed."
5. Disaster Plan: Make a plan for the Tarawera disaster. What would you need? Where would you go? How would you keep yourself safe?



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## Activity

*Cry of the Taniwha* is set in and around Rotorua and has a very strong sense of place. Some of the places mentioned are the museum at the Buried Village, Lake Tikitapu, Whakarewarewa, and Fenton St in the city. Create a map and include as many places named in the novel as you can. Make it look like an old fashioned treasure map.