



A quarterly update to our supporter community

December 2020

Tena koutou katoa from our chair, Chris Hawkes

Like many other entities, the Sanctuary has experienced the many ups and downs, ebbs and flows this calendar year has presented. Whether it was the challenge of Covid, fire danger, snow, gales, slips, fence breaches, predator incursions or administration frustrations; we have had it all.

The response from all volunteers along with staff to deal with or rectify the issues was quick, thorough, in all cases extremely well done, with no compromise. There will always from time-to-time be incursions, fence breaches, rejections, disappointments and so on, it is the very nature of a sanctuary's existence. What is important and vital is the manner and efficiencies in dealing with these incidents and we have met each one.

This standard or level could not be achieved if it were not for the numbers, depth of skill and sheer unselfish enthusiasm of personal effort and time given to achieve the desired outcome. The volunteer pool, whether at the Sanctuary coal face (not the best description in this day and age) or in administration along with staff, can be described simply as "world beaters"- take a bow all, and a big thank you.

Through the accumulation of your efforts, we are making progress toward our stated and expected goals.

During the year we experienced natural attrition of a small number of volunteers, often long serving, dedicated people who have called time and are stepping down or leaving the region. Thank you all for the time and effort given. You are and will remain, always welcome. To the volunteers stepping up to assume the roles or similar duties welcome and thank you for doing this, not always an easy commitment.

We have been successful in obtaining funding to employ positions to cover marketing, visitor experience, education, and volunteer coordination. These new roles will be in place early in the new year and will be engaged in areas that the board were acutely aware of needing resource.

The board itself is now at full strength having appointed a doctorate-qualified supporter to fill the role of chair for the eco committee and take a place at the trustee's board table. We acknowledge and thank the volunteers that covered the position in the interim period and kept this key committee functioning.

In closing, I extend to you and all your loved ones, a safe and happy Christmas / New Year. I would like to share a Sanctuary experience from a different perspective as told to me by a volunteer guide at the end-of-year volunteers' BBQ. He had recently taken a group (10) of visually impaired people through the sanctuary.

It had been raining a few hours before; our guide stopped, and all stood still at a special place. The sun was warm, the sound of the stream was amplified almost drowning out the sound of birds calling close by and far off. Scent of the honey suckle was in the air blended with the start of honey dew. Damp conditions gave off the musty smell of the underfoot vegetation. Stillness, tranquility, and fragrance of the native bush all blended into a sensory experience these blind people were so taken by, they will be back.

Whilst they could not see the native birds or bush, these people experienced something(s), that I for one, did not fully appreciate. This Sanctuary offers so much diversity to all people through all walks of life.

Nga mihi

Chris Hawkes, Chair BWST



A number of opportunities have been realised for the Sanctuary in the last quarter of 2020.



We have attracted national funding to support between four and five new full and part-time staff roles which will allow us to increase our reach in community support and biosecurity.



The Brook Stream is an important tributary to the Maitai catchment, and the Sanctuary is part of the Maitai/Mahitahi shovel-ready project dedicated to restoring the Maitai river.



The Sanctuary's 15-year vision document has been completed



We have attracted a new significant sponsor.



There have been some exciting findings, including a rare fungus and a successful perimeter fence external audit result.



Our volunteer drive attracted a further 90 volunteers over the year and we end 2020 with a supporter base that has trebled over the last 18 months.



In addition to all of this, the Sanctuary began the year with rat and weasel incursions which delayed the reintroduction of endangered species, but we approach the end of the year with no new evidence of either pest, or any other key pest for several months.

All-in-all a positive end to an eventful year for the Sanctuary, its trustees, volunteers, supporters, and staff.

Vision: Our Next 15-Years

The Brook Waimārama Sanctuary has been in its establishment phase for 15 years.

Today, the Sanctuary is the largest fenced haven for endangered plants and animals in the South Island, and the second largest in the country. The Sanctuary's native wildlife is noticeably flourishing within the

fence as well as extending out into the daily lives of neighbours. It is officially recognised as pest-free, setting the scene for the next, developmental phase. During the year we have undertaken an extensive consultative approach to planning our Vision for the next 15-years. The resulting document aims to encourage understanding of the Why and What of the Sanctuary, followed by an outline of How and When.

In the future, the Sanctuary will be an important contributor to, and example of, conservation collaboration and innovation and feeding a spread of our native species far beyond the fence.



To learn more about our journey for the next 15 years, follow the link:

<https://www.brooksanctuary.org.nz/our-story/key-documents> for either a one-page 15-Year Framework Summary or the full 15-Year Vision or email us at admin@brooksanctuary.org.nz

New trustee appointment- Dr Paula Casanovas

Dr Paula Casanovas has been appointed as a trustee of the BWST with effect from 16 November 2020.

Paula has a PhD in Biology from the University of Maryland, USA, on Antarctic biogeography. After completing her PhD, she joined the British Antarctic Survey as a visitor scientist and, following that, she worked as a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Canterbury researching population dynamics and rapid evolutionary processes in New Zealand pests. Paula now works at Cawthron Institute as an Ecologist - Data Scientist. Her main role in this position is to support research and consulting projects across Cawthron by providing specialist statistical, data manipulation and data visualization expertise and support on environmental research, especially in the area of ecology and general biology. Working in this role, she has worked with Nelson City Council on its freshwater monitoring programme and with DOC on its freshwater surveys.



The Board is delighted to welcome Paula, who says she is very grateful and excited to have the opportunity to be part of the BWST. She would like to see the Sanctuary as a place where citizen science thrives and is a driving force for ecological research, monitoring and restoration efforts. She wants to use the data collected at the Sanctuary as a tool to showcase the benefits of the Sanctuary to the community, and how the community is helping the Sanctuary to be the special place it is.

Paula will take over the chair of the Ecosystems committee, and we thank Katherine Chamberlain for filling the role since mid-2019.

NBS - our new gold sponsor

The Trust is also delighted to welcome a new Gold sponsor – NBS (formerly Nelson Building Society). The significant sponsorship agreement is worth \$50,000 to BWST over the next two years.



“NBS is thrilled to substantially increase our support to the Brook Waimārama Sanctuary Trust as a new Gold Sponsor. This new sponsorship represents a commitment by us to what is a key community asset, focused on conservation and the environment. We applaud what the Trust has created thus far, particularly the construction of the perimeter fence and impact this fence has made to flora and fauna within its boundary. We want to be a true partner assisting in their continued aspirations, particularly around getting more locals to visit and enjoy this amazing piece of land so close to Nelson.

NBS has grown significantly during the past decade and during that time we have increasingly recognised there is a social responsibility to contribute to the community we are part of. Our success is based on providing a high level of personal client service, product flexibility and local decision making. But a key part of what we do, what we are proud of and what our client's value, is that we give back to our community through sponsorships of not-for-profit groups, like the Brook Waimārama Sanctuary”.

Guided walks offered from 26 December

We are really excited to now be offering regular guided tours through the Sanctuary for anyone wanting to maximise their knowledge and/or time while visiting.

A gentle walk of 60-90 minutes, each tour will stop at several points of interest with the experienced volunteer guide explaining:

- The history of the valleys
- Stories of the bush including history and Māori use of plants
- The plants and animals all around us
- The conservation work we are doing and why it's important for all of us

The tours depart at 10.30am from the Visitor Centre, every Sunday, and other selected days during the summer (check our website for details). <https://www.brooksanctuary.org.nz/what-to-see-do/guided-tours>



We are not able to tailor guided tours for groups around specific interest topics or time frames as yet.

Sanctuary-wide monitoring survey

This was recently successfully completed by 16 December and we are glad to report results included that no pest detections were reported from ~2850 pest monitoring stations.

Temporary fence in action

The Sanctuary's temporary fence was put to use in late November when a large beech tree fell on the fence following prolonged heavy rain.



Twelve metres of the pest fence was damaged, with three posts broken and damage to the mesh and hood.

Fortunately, Murray, our field operations coordinator, was nearby and got to the breach in 20 minutes. While he dealt with the canopy of the tree the fence repair team were deployed and headed up to the breach bringing our bespoke temporary fence with them. This consists of a tarpaulin with eyelets, ropes and tensioning straps. Similar to the proper fence it has a skirt to stop pests digging underneath and a floppy hood to prevent anything jumping over it.

The temporary fence provides a rapid fix, allowing the full repair of the fence to be carried out another day with minimal predator incursion risk.

Nature Fix seen in the Sanctuary



Green-hooded orchid (genus Pteostylis) found on Falcon Spur



The green-hooded orchid

Rare fungal find in the Sanctuary - Claustula Fischeri

You may have seen in the media recently that the discovery of an unusual and threatened fungus in the Brook Waimārama Sanctuary has caused excitement among fungi fans (aka mycologists) and highlights the value of restoring and protecting our local ecosystems – you never know what treasures might pop up.

The fungus was spotted by volunteers Chris Turton and Wayne Hennessy while bird monitoring, and its identity confirmed by Dr Peter Buchanan (a leading NZ mycologist at Manaaki Whenua - Landcare Research) as *Claustula fischeri* (aka Fischer's Egg), one of NZ's most threatened fungi.



Fischer's Egg is on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List - the world's most comprehensive inventory of the global conservation status of biological species – as well as having a Department of Conservation status of Nationally Critical.

Fischer's Egg fungus grows in forests dominated by beech, manuka (*Leptospermum*) and/or kanuka (*Kunzea*) trees. Whilst there have been no recent sightings of Fischer's Egg on Fringed Hill, there are recent records near Gore and in the Taieri Gorge near Dunedin. In 1997, Fischer's Egg was rediscovered in Tasmania, growing in eucalyptus forest near Hobart. In Australian Aboriginal folklore, the fungus is known as the Bunyip Egg, as it resembles eggs of the mythical Bunyip creature, (ref)

<https://www.endangeredspecies.org.nz/store/doc/Fischers%20egg%20fungus%20Endangered%20species%20factsheet.pdf>

The Sanctuary is working with its volunteers to ensure that any further sightings of Fischer's Egg are recorded and managed appropriately.

Sponsorship drive results

The results of last month's drive for sponsorship has been very encouraging and we are grateful for the additional financial support offered to the Sanctuary across a number of fronts:



Freshwater Panels Sponsored.

Freshwater ecology is an important part of restoring the ecosystem at the Sanctuary. We intend increasing our work on the Brook Stream and its catchment with more research and development, education delivery and community awareness. A first step is to arrange suitable interpretative signage.

The first two signs involved contributions from a large number of people including several volunteers, trustees, DOC, NCC, Cawthron staff.

Volunteers also largely funded the cost of researching, preparing, and publishing the panels. Special thanks go to Pete Hay, Pete Williams, Seereed Communications and Cutting Edge for their generous efforts with producing these panels for the community. They are to be installed below Founders' Bridge close to the Visitor Centre car park. More information is also on our website:

<https://www.brooksanctuary.org.nz/what-to-see-do/waterways>



Fencepost sponsorship. This is an ongoing opportunity for supporters who want a small 'mark' of their own in the Sanctuary along the Sanctuary's perimeter fence line. As detailed on our Facebook page, sponsoring a fence post makes a great Christmas present; sponsors receive a small plaque attached to the post with individual wording, and a post-location number. We really appreciate the people who have bought posts in the last two months. To order or gift a post the best way is to go online here:

<https://www.brooksanctuary.org.nz/get-involved/sponsor-a-fencepost>



Fundraising at the Nelson A&P show. The lovely folk at Pete's Natural displayed Sanctuary brochures and a donation bucket at their award-winning stand at the recent A&P Show, raising nearly \$1000 for us over the two days – Thank You!

Pete's Natural is based over in Motueka and make all natural, low-sugar sodas. Everything they make is from and made in New Zealand, with only natural ingredients. Their sodas are



made with freshly squeezed juice from spray-free fruits sourced from all over New Zealand. Pete's Natural raised over \$995 over the two days as their way of supporting the Sanctuary. They have also offered a discount code of 10% the code will be 'TBWS', so to order just go the website and pop in the code at the checkout. The website address is <https://petesnatural.co.nz/> The code is valid until the 20th Dec.



Sanctuary Art. We have just unveiled a new piece of art in the Sanctuary, positioned on The Loop track, close to the Brook Stream.

The sculpture, by local sculptor Martin Love, was inspired by, and pays tribute to, the years of hard work, commitment, and generosity the hundreds of volunteers, sponsors and donors have given the Sanctuary.

The piece is a rendition of the Sanctuary's logo, carved from Oamaru stone (aka totara limestone). Acknowledging that our conservation efforts rely on many contributors from the community, family and friends, Martin in turn volunteered his skills to honour all those involved. Martin has an on-going family connection with the Sanctuary.



bottom is the river/water flowing through the valley."

The Sanctuary's logo (left) was designed by local artist, Dean Raybould. The curved beak and wattle indentation depict birds like the kōkako, tīeke and the extinct huia. Dean said at the time of creating: "There is of course an element of the hand holding/supporting/protecting the birdlife, but also I wanted to try and get a bit of a feel of a bowl shape too, symbolising the Sanctuary itself. The other part of the logo is the hand's fingers doubling as the bird's other wing- so that was about 'setting the birds free'. I always loved the idea that the protected birdlife could 'overflow' into Nelson itself. The blue swish at the



Fundraising through donation of house sale commission. Two of our extremely hard-working volunteers sold their house recently.

"Having worked with Debbie Watson of Tall Poppy Real Estate on the sale of a property a few years back, we were very happy with her effective and friendly approach. This year we decided to sell up and leave our Nelson home, leaving behind our beloved Sanctuary. So, when we approached Debbie to assist with the sale, we also asked if she would consider supporting the Brook Sanctuary. Her answer was a convincing 'yes!' so there's now funding available for the next two years to organise volunteer events, allowing funds to cover travel costs, etc for guest speakers. Many thanks for this generous gesture!"
Hans Wiskerke & Mika Verheul



Says Debbie: "Tall Poppy Real Estate also likes to give back to the community and I'm proud that I could not only help my vendors sell their home but give back to a worthwhile cause in the process. If you would like to sell with me in the next year, **I will happily donate \$500 from my commission** back to the Sanctuary.

Debbie believes real estate is about people. "Ultimately people just like dealing with other people who are honest, transparent, respectful, professional, as well as being friendly and (dare I say it), nice. Most of us just want to deal with real people and have a good experience. Real estate is a journey, and you need someone by your side you can trust has your best interests at heart. It does seem that, for the better, the real estate industry has gone through an upheaval as

clients now have more options in terms of who they engage than ever before. People still see value in engaging a professional – everyone wants to get the best price they can – and are happy to pay what they believe to be a fair and reasonable fee for full service. That's why I believe in Tall Poppy – with our fair flat fee, which includes GST, and an amazing digital launch bundle, exceptional behind the scenes processes and great service."



Support the Sanctuary with unwanted gifts. Last year, well over 5,000 listings for unwanted gifts had been uploaded to Trade Me by Boxing Day, with clothing and books some of the most common items listed. And while it's unknown what the total value of these unwanted items was, one study in Australia found an estimated A\$400 million was spent on 10 million unwanted gifts for Christmas in 2018. In the United States, that number was closer to US\$15.2 billion. For more information see link <https://thespinoff.co.nz/money/03-12-2020/christmas-without-the-clutter-a-better-alternative-to-unwanted-gift-giving/>

If you would like to donate your unwanted gifts to the Sanctuary so we might raise funds please contact admin@brooksanctuary.org.nz



Become a Sanctuary Supporter

Thank you and welcome to those people who recently signed up as Supporters, either individually, as a family or via their business. Thanks also to the individuals who have recently set up regular donations to the Sanctuary - your support is most sincerely appreciated. If you've made a financial contribution of any sort to the Brook Waimārama Sanctuary but not received an official receipt, please get in touch with Nick Tilly: info@brooksanctuary.org.nz



Give a Sanctuary Supporter cards for Christmas. We are continuing to issue new electronic supporter cards to store on a mobile phone. These are done in monthly batches and emailed, and again, get in touch with Nick if you have not received yours. For people who prefer a credit card-sized hard copy, also contact Nick at info@brooksanctuary.org.nz.

We're delighted to report that we have very nearly reached the supporter target we set ourselves; earlier in the year we decided to aim for 500 paid up financial supporters by year end. We're almost there - as of 15 December we are at 476.

So, if you're looking for Christmas gift ideas and the earlier fence post option does not appeal, why not purchase a Brook Waimārama Sanctuary annual supporter subscription for someone you care about? You help us reach our target and you enable family and friends to experience the magic of the Sanctuary. Contact: nick.tilly@brooksanctuary.org.nz to arrange a supporter gift subscription.

Sanctuary Website

Our Brook Sanctuary website (www.brooksantuary.org.nz) is now one year old. Throughout the last 12 months we've been gradually adding content, such as the 2019 and 2020 Annual Reports [here](#); and [the new page](#) on the Brook Stream with a couple of videos on audacious eels and their uphill battles to migrate upstream. We will continue to add more website content to enhance knowledge and build awareness of conservation issues and efforts. Since launching the website in November 2019, we've received over \$32,000 in donations, supporter payments and fencepost sponsorships through the website, a result we're extremely pleased with.

Visitor numbers to the Sanctuary are increasing

Year-to-date, (1 Jul-24 Nov), visitors' numbers are up 949 on the same period last year, which is a terrific result, especially in light of no international visitors as the borders stay shut.

Bequest received with thanks

At the beginning of the month the Trust received an unexpected bequest from the estate of Dame Alison Roxburgh who was a supporter of the Sanctuary, and many other causes in Nelson, for many years. This was immensely appreciated.

Earlier this year the Brook Waimārama Sanctuary Foundation was established with the aim of creating an investment vehicle that will hold and invest funds for the long-term benefit of the Sanctuary operations.

The Brook Waimārama Trust Foundation



While the Brook Waimārama Sanctuary Trust is itself a charitable trust, last year the Trust decided to establish a separate charitable trust for the purposes of receiving bequests, gifts, and endowments from third parties.

Independent foundations are able to invest private gift funds in a more diversified manner, providing greater investment return and increased support for the Sanctuary with less risk of loss of real value. A separate foundation was also considered to be a way to keep these finances

separate from other fundraising efforts and provide a stable and secure source of funding for the Sanctuary, free of any public sector or funding influences that can shift over time.

The sole mission of the Foundation is for the benefit of the Sanctuary, but the independence and long-term nature of the Foundation are steadying factors, particularly in difficult times. Further, by giving to an independent foundation, many donors feel assured that their gift will be responsibly invested and distributed for the intended purposes and not become confused with other funding.

Foundation Trust Investment Programme. The BWS Trust will provide an annual sum to the Foundation to finance its fundraising and endowment-raising initiatives and Craig's Investment Partners have been appointed as the Foundation's investment manager. For more information please contact: admin@brooksanctuary.org.nz

Brook Business Club

In 2018 the Trust launched the Brook Business Club, to develop/strengthen our ties to many of the businesses in the Nelson/Tasman region, and to develop new income to support the activities of the Sanctuary. We asked businesses to commit to a three-year programme at a cost of \$500+GST annum. The programme has seen 60+ businesses joining, and while we've lost a few this year due to COVID-19, we're delighted with the number of businesses who have recently fulfilled their third-year commitment. We are continuing to evolve the programme to make it more attractive and meaningful to businesses supporters, and would welcome your feedback; and of course, we're always keen to sign-up new business club supporters. For more details, contact: deborah.mcconochie@brooksanctuary.org.nz

Visitor Center summer opening times

Thanks to the support of the Kaimahi Jobs for Nature initiative we have been able to employ two part-time coordinators for the Visitor Centre, Kirsten Rødsgaard-Mathiesen and Katie Gray (early January) to help cover the next busy months.

- Opening daily from 26 December through to 4 January then open six days a week throughout Jan and Feb (closed on Mondays) – 9-5pm.
- Opening times and days may be found on our website or Facebook page.

Supporter Profile



The Department of Conservation Te Papa Atawhai (DOC) is the government agency charged with conserving New Zealand's natural and historic heritage. DOC manages about 8.6 million hectares of land across New Zealand (including islands), 44 marine reserves (covering 1.77 million hectares), and eight marine mammal sanctuaries (covering approximately 2.8 million hectares).

The Nelson Tasman area is fortunate to have extensive areas of public conservation land within easy driving distance from Nelson, Richmond and Motueka. These include the Abel Tasman, Kahurangi and Nelson Lakes National Parks and Mt Richmond Forest Park, which are hot spots for indigenous biodiversity, destinations for recreation, and integral to the identity of the region. DOC also manages many smaller sites, including the Boulder Bank (one of the defining features of Nelson), Horoirangi and Tonga Island Marine Reserves in Tasman Bay, and even part of Albion Square next to Queens Gardens in the heart of the city. Managing all of these areas for their various values is DOC's primary focus and keeps our operational teams fully occupied.

But we can't sustain and celebrate all of New Zealand's indigenous biodiversity just within these protected areas, large as some of them are. And we can't succeed in conserving New Zealand's natural and historic heritage on our own – the job is just too big; and anyway, it'd be wrong for DOC to claim sole responsibility for something that so many New Zealander's are passionate about. So, we work in partnership with iwi, community groups and businesses across the country to achieve more conservation. There are hundreds of conservation groups working with DOC, or working independently, to help Papatūānuku Thrive.

DOC has been involved with the Brook Waimārama Sanctuary since its inception (DOC was one of the signatories to the Trust Deed). DOC continues to provide advice and support on matters such as species re-introductions and is represented on the BWST's Ecosystems Committee.

Large catchment-based predator-fenced sanctuaries like the Brook Waimārama Sanctuary complement DOC's efforts to protect and restore threatened indigenous ecosystems and species. Fenced sanctuaries allow for the complete eradication of introduced mammalian pests within the fenced area, rather than simply managing these pests to low numbers (which so far is the best we can manage elsewhere on the mainland). This benefits native species that are particularly vulnerable to even low levels of predation, or which are the preferred food of mammalian herbivores. It also creates exciting opportunities to re-introduce species that have been lost from the area.

The Brook Waimārama Sanctuary has the added benefit of being close to the centre of Nelson, which makes it accessible and a great place for community involvement, education, and connecting with nature. This has been particularly important in 2020, and directly contributes to the outcomes that DOC wants to achieve:

- Te ora o Papatūānuku | Healthy nature
- Te ora o te Hāpori | Thriving communities
- Te hunga Atawhai | People who care

Check out www.doc.govt.nz for more information about DOC's work, indigenous biodiversity, and places to visit.

Roy Grose. Ten service medals were conferred in November 2020 to exceptional public servants who have given meritorious service, and the recipients included Roy Grose, Operations Director – Northern South Island Region, Department of Conservation. Roy's recommendation said:

"Throughout his 43 years of public service, Roy has built respect and trust in his relationships with iwi and encouraged and enabled them to practice Kaitiakitanga on public conservation land. Roy exemplifies integrity, fairness, commitment, dedication, and professionalism. He is a role model for other public servants and leads a high trust work environment within his team. He is inclusive and puts other people first. Roy's humble, warm and caring spirit of service brings communities and neighbours together for the public good. This makes him a deserving recipient of the New Zealand Public Service Medal."

Acknowledgements

Hans Wiskerke & Mika Verheul. A special thank you to two outstanding Sanctuary volunteers.

Mika and Hans have been volunteering at the Sanctuary since 2013; during this time, they have been involved in many different areas of work, putting in a lot of time on the ground (often literally) but also into the organisation and planning of the operation.



Recently Mika has been running the Sanctuary-wide Survey. This is a large logistical task with 2,850 monitoring stations to be checked and around 50 volunteers to organise. Among Mika's many other contributions are running multiple first aid courses for the volunteers and staff, her practical approach to first aid being ideal for workers in the Sanctuary.

Hans set up and has been leading the fence checking team since the fence was completed in 2016. His attention to detail made him a perfect fit for this role; his engineering background has also been of great use. Hans was also the volunteer representative for the past year where he represented the volunteers at board level.

We will miss their commitment to and enthusiasm for the Sanctuary: there will be a big hole to fill with their departure (see photo!) but hopefully they will be back after their travels.

Pic's Peanut Butter

Pic's is a major sponsor and long-time supporter of the Sanctuary. We would like to acknowledge Pic's recently announced achievement with national branding recognition. Nelson's favourite peanut butter makers was named as the top pick on the leader board of New Zealand's most respected brands, usurping chocolate maker Whittaker's to take out the top spot in the second round of Opinion Compare's Brand Reputation Index results. (The Brand Reputation Index measures a range of different factors, such as brand love, quality, purpose, and longevity to identify the most respected brands in the country.) Congratulations!



To read more <https://i.stuff.co.nz/business/123507485/nelson-peanut-butter-maker-the-pic-of-the-bunch-for-new-zealand-brands>



Cathedral of Lights

Volunteers Jane Stevens and Jacquie Roberts decorated the Sanctuary Christmas tree in the Cathedral on 26 November as part of the annual Festival of Christmas Trees.

A delightful Festive spectacle to behold for all ages, the display is on until 17 January (our tree in no. 41)

The Cathedral welcomes volunteers from participating organisations to help on their meet-and-greet roster while the trees are in place.

For more information, or to put your name on the cathedral's roster, please email christmas@nelsoncathedral.org

Jane Stevens working on Christmas tree decorations

Sanctuary volunteer Christmas BBQ

As a way of giving something back to the Sanctaury's volunteers, staff host an annual BBQ at the Sanctuary. More than 80 attended the event 11 December, with speeches from Councillor Kate Fulton, staff, and volunteers. We unveiled the two new freshwater interpretive panels and our new stone sculpture and Derek Shaw, our most recent life supporter recipient, donated boxes of several different new books for people to take with them for holiday reading, thanks Derek.



A big **THANK YOU** to all who helped source and prepare the food. A special, huge thank you to **New World Nelson** who kindly supplied a significant grocery voucher and to Connings Food Market who provided discounted produce to support the event.

The Visitor center was packed for the volunteer Xmas BBQ

To close

We appreciate your ongoing support of the Sanctuary and welcome your feedback. Should you wish to make a comment on this newsletter, please contact me: ru.collin@brooksanctuary.org.nz



Meri Kirihimete and festive wishes to all

Ru Collin
CE