



A quarterly update to the community at large.

June 2020

Introduction/overview from Ru Collin, our CE

The second quarter, from April to June, has been consumed with Covid-19 and adapting the Sanctuary's operation to minimise business disruption. Since lockdown levels have progressively been lifted, volunteers and staff have completed a number of projects, one example being The Loop track improvements. We took the opportunity while locked down to review and improve parts of the business and also to draft short-term plans for the next one to two years.

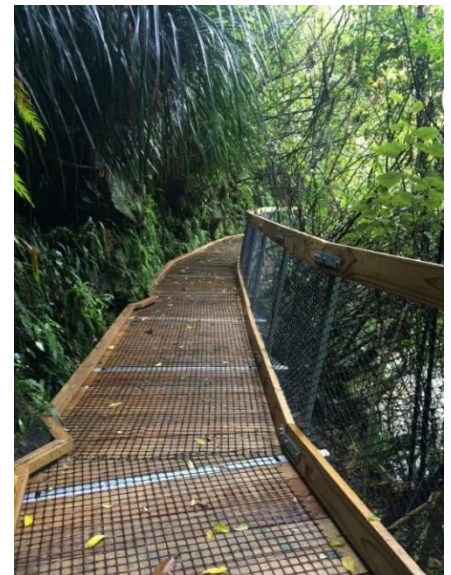
We have also drafted a document describing aims for the next 15 years of the Sanctuary from 2020 to 2035 and intend testing that with key stakeholders before finalising and adopting later this year.

As part of improving our offering for receiving and managing legacies such as bequests and endowments we have established an independent Sanctuary Foundation Trust, whose sole beneficiary is the Sanctuary. Our financial year ends 30 June for the 2019/20 year, and although our end of year accounts are not finalised, happily we will be looking at achieving a small operational surplus.

Our News

Accessible boardwalk

A 22m-long boardwalk has been completed on the 1.2km Loop track, constructed to improve access for wheelchairs and buggies. The location of the boardwalk is one of the hotspots for glow worms in the Sanctuary which will be a highlight when we offer night walks to visitors. Our asset team and fence repair team worked together to build the structure and the work was possible in part thanks to ITM Nelson who donated the all-important wood – nice teamwork everyone.



The Loop's new board walk and handrails

Latest technology deployed in our weasel battle

As has been widely-reported in the media, last year's mega beech mast has led to extremely high mouse numbers throughout the South Island which in turn has provided near-perfect conditions for mustelids (carnivorous mammals such as stoats and weasels) to breed.

In the Sanctuary, weasels were first detected mid-2019 and since mid-December 2019 they have been regularly trapped. It is unclear how the predators first got into the Sanctuary but possibly it was via an old tree root tunnel or similar. In response to this, volunteers have been carrying out fortnightly servicing of more than 300 DOC200 traps.

Two mustelid detection dog teams were deployed in January and only found four general locations with mustelid scent indicating the Sanctuary does not have a large population of the predators so the response teams' efforts are paying off and we are holding the line. However, the Sanctuary needs to be predator-free before species' reintroductions and new technology has been identified to help us achieve this goal.

Working with Zero Invasive Predators (ZIP) we are now trialling cameras and ZIP's Moto-Lure. Cameras have been shown to be a much more sensitive tool than tracking tunnels for mustelids (very few prints have been detected in our tracking tunnels and it is thought weasels won't often enter tunnels that they can see right through). The Moto-Lure (right) is an automatic lure dispenser where a small electric motor releases a programmed amount of lure at a specific time each day, effectively luring the weasels into the camera's path for detection without needing volunteers to continually rebait tracking cards. A Nelson City Council Environmental Grant has funded the cutting-edge hardware so we are able to trial a small number of units in the Sanctuary.



Interestingly, using the smell of mustelids increases capture rates and another recent innovation at the Sanctuary is the use of Super-lure. Super-lure is weasel and stoat bedding, cut up pieces of white towel in which the animals have slept at the Lincoln Landcare Research pest animal facility. Averaged across four previous trials carried out by Landcare Research, for every 10 stoats/weasels caught with regular bait, 25 were caught with the addition of the lure.

Last but not least, with the onset of winter the time of unlimited food (mice) is coming to an end and by summer we anticipate it being easier to catch the remaining few weasels.

Dr David Butler recognised in Queen's Birthday Awards

Our long-serving past chair Dave Butler has been vested a Queen's Service Medal, for services to conservation. Dave was a founder of the Sanctuary community project started in 2004 and he led the operation as chair until 2019. We were delighted our nomination was accepted as a public way of showing our appreciation of his hard work and dedication. To read more see; <https://www.stuff.co.nz/nelson-mail/121667933/royal-recognition-for-waimarama-sanctuary-founder>

Another species of orchid noted in Sanctuary

A sharp-eyed volunteer has discovered a tiny orchid identified as *Acianthus sinclarii* (a type of gnat orchid). More commonly known as a pixie cap or heart-leaf orchid, it features a single heart-shaped leaf one-third to halfway up the stem with up to 10 greenish flowers with a tinge of maroon. Such discoveries along the side of the track add to the enjoyment of a visit to the Sanctuary and are the reason why we are passionate about the message to volunteers and visitors to "tread carefully".



Also recently spotted was more rather stunning fungi, this time *Gliophorus graminicola*, of the Wax-gill group of fungi. Around 20 species of Wax-gill have been reported in New Zealand, most indigenous. *Gliophorus* is recognised by the thick glutinous coating over the surface.

(Pic by Kath Ballantine)



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 initiatives:



Smart technology for our predator detection and control, as detailed above. From several donors we have money for more ZIP Moto-Lure dispensers and trail cameras to test in the Sanctuary.



Picnic tables. We have secured sponsors for three picnic tables and a further five bench seats for The Loop track and its extension up to 1909 Bridge.



Stone Carving. Funding has been committed to complete a carving of the Sanctuary's distinctive bird and hand logo which we plan to place close to The Loop near the Brook Stream.



Fencepost sponsorship. This is an ongoing opportunity for supporters who want a small 'mark' of their own in the Sanctuary and we have sold eight last month.

Thank you!

Website News

We are fortunate to be receiving additional volunteer help to add more information to the Sanctuary website at the moment. From July additions will include more wildlife images, plant images and information, links to historical information about the former waterworks, Dean Raybould's artwork series, and links to four videos about the Sanctuary.

We will also have recent publications in downloadable format including annual reports, pamphlets, the visitor map and volunteer introduction/induction information. See www.brooksanctuary.org.nz

Iwi Value the Sanctuary

A short film has been completed by Fraser Heal about iwi's perspective on the Sanctuary and its importance to the region. In the words of Te Tai Ihu Iwi representative Barney Thomas:

"It's a no brainer that whānau, hapū and Iwi would want to support a concept like this, because it's within our whakapapa as kaitiaki to look after the native bush and reintroduce the tikanga of using and utilising nature. "We have the responsibility of passing this rohe (region) on to our mokopuna (grandchildren) and Waimārama is a classic example of the ngahere (bush) that Whakatū (Nelson) used to look like." [View video](#) [link]

Seeking a Visitor Centre volunteer representative – want to get involved?

Last year two new roles were set up to improve communication between the volunteer pool and the Board of Trustees and after nearly a year, both roles have proven to be most effective. One of the roles represents volunteers in the field, while the other represents volunteers who work at the Visitor Centre. Our incumbent VC rep, Barb Beckett, will step back on 30 June and we are seeking a replacement. Ideally, the VC rep sits on both the Health and Safety and Visitor Experience committees and has the opportunity to attend part of the monthly Trustee meetings.

If you are interested please contact ru.collin@brooksanctuary.org.nz

Acknowledging our volunteers.

This year National Volunteer Week is this week June 21-27 June and the theme is 'Te Hua o te Mahi Tahī' ('the benefit of working together').

We thought we should do something to let you volunteers know we acknowledge and appreciate you.

Chocolate will be kindly supplied all week at the Visitor center and 3 homemade cakes will be made available on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Getting the Word Out

We have recently created a flyer to encourage visitors up to the Sanctuary, for placement at the central city's i-SITE as well as motels, hotels and cafes around the region. Do please get in contact with us if you are happy to display at your place of work or know any business owners that might be happy to display these on behalf of us: info@brooksantuary.org.nz



Review
us on
Tripadvisor



Tripadvisor is a popular tourist guide app/website where users can review and rate local attractions (among other things). A review directly affects how many people see the attraction on TripAdvisor and as a consequence the number of visitors they get through the app/site. The reach of TripAdvisor is huge - arguably bigger than Lonely Planet. You can help the Sanctuary reach more people by creating a free account on TripAdvisor and giving us a 5-star review - bonus points for added photos and detailed explanations of what makes the Sanctuary such a great place to visit. Getting to a top ranking in Nelson (we're currently 12th) on TripAdvisor would mean more visitors coming to check out our amazing slice of paradise.

Become a Sanctuary financial supporter

The Sanctuary's aim of restoring the ecosystem in a historic piece of New Zealand, where native flora and fauna can flourish, is being realised. Many hours of labour, constant fundraising and considerable community support have carried us closer to our goal – we now have a visitor centre, an immersive outdoor classroom, 14.4km of predator-proof fence, and a pest monitoring track network. We have built pedestrian bridges and developed well-maintained visitor tracks (some of which are wheelchair accessible) so everyone can enjoy this conservation haven.

The Sanctuary is poised to become a top regional visitor attraction and we are working toward rare species reintroductions. Fortunately, much of the work has been done at a greatly reduced cost or for free, often undertaken by volunteers, as the bulk of our revenue needs to go on developing the site and pest management.

However, maintaining a Sanctuary of this size (690 fenced hectares) requires ongoing financial support. We very gratefully receive around a quarter of our annual expenditure from Nelson City Council: the rest we need to raise via grants and donations, which is why we are asking friends, volunteers and advocates to consider becoming a paid-up supporter of the Sanctuary.

Sanctuary Supporter You might be surprised to learn that our annual Sanctuary Supporter base is very modest; it is only in recent weeks that we reached 300 financial supporters! Sanctuary Supporters enjoy the perk of being able to visit the Sanctuary free of charge year-round. Please encourage your friends and family to sign on as supporters, either as individuals (\$50) or households (\$100).

Sanctuary Supporter 'card' going virtual. After 30 June we aim to roll out a virtual card to replace the plastic card for most supporters. Some may still need a card. Supporter details will be accessed at the visitor center and we will also advise supporters how to load our 'virtual' card onto cell phone cameras.

Regular Donors An alternative way of supporting us, however, is by joining our donors' group that make small but regular contributions, which obviously really helps the cash flow! If every supporter donated the equivalent of a cup of coffee every week (~\$5) we could raise \$70k per annual, up that to \$10 per week and we're talking \$140,000 each year – which would have a *significant* impact on the scope of our activities. Food

for thought? We hope so! (Regular/recurring donations can be set-up through our website, or via an automatic payment into the BWST bank account). [Consider our Supporter options \[link\]](#)

Sponsors in the Sanctuary



Nelmac's environmental arm is known as Kūmānu. Kūmānu believe our land, environment and species are precious, and they exist to safeguard these natural assets to protect and enhance what is sacred to our communities and New Zealand.



Kūmānu support the Sanctuary by providing two staff for one day per month, with equipment provided pro bono.

Their skilled staff help reduce risk of potential damage to our Sanctuary fence by working as rock removers, arborists and other conservation related activities.

We are grateful for Nelmac, Kūmānu and Haeata's team and their ongoing contribution.

Haeata Meihana

Conservation Team Leader

03 546 0910 | 022 367 6811

hmeihana@kumanuenviro.co.nz | www.kumanuenviro.co.nz

Kūmānu Environmental | PO Box 9035 | Annesbrook | Nelson 7044



Proud supporters of the Kea Conservation Trust

A division of **NELMAC**

Sponsor Profile

Nelson Pine Industries Ltd

A substantial financial sponsor of the Sanctuary is Nelson Pine Industries. Their commitment to assisting us meet our conservation objectives is hugely appreciated and actively demonstrates their commitment to the region's eco-system and conservation.

Nelson Pine Industries Ltd, founded in 1984, has developed into a major forest resource processing plant. The Company operates three Medium Density Fibreboard plants and one Laminated Veneer Lumber plant and processes 1 million m³ of Radiata Pine forest resource per year that represents 40% of the Region's annual harvest.

Nelson Pine Industries employs 260 employees and is supported by many local businesses including engineering, transport and other services. Its GoldenEdge MDF (Medium Density Fibreboard) products are marketed in New Zealand and abroad and is essentially used for the manufacture of furniture and house fittings. The NelsonPine LVL (Laminated Veneer Lumber) is an ideal substitute for steel and concrete and is used in the construction of commercial multi-storey buildings. Nelson Pine Industries export volumes represent approximately 15% of the volumes exported through Port Nelson.

Nelson Pine Industries Ltd is proud to be involved as a major supporter of the Brook Waimārama Sanctuary and wish the Sanctuary team every success for 2020 and beyond.