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KEEPING YOU INFORMED

MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR

It is a generally accepted fact, that the success of most organisations is the inherent strength arising from its skill base, aptitude, cohesion, commitment and united vision of its' people. Whether it is a commercial business, trust, committee of sorts or a club, the organisation's ongoing success invariably comes down in a good part, to the skills and attitudes of its people. Underpinning this is, the key element of camaraderie.

It is this spirit of camaraderie that oozes from Sanctuary volunteers! Camaraderie in abundance has seen the fence repaired in the early hours of a cold wet stormy morning and the Visitor Centre refurbished in record time to a high standard and within budget. Teams going out to cut new tracks or to maintain/repair the existing track network, the majority on very difficult or steep terrain. I recently overheard a volunteer team leader offering to bring baking - a special cake or cakes - to encourage a full turn-out of the team to repair swales and drains. The Visitor Centre staff making visitors welcome then discussing their visit encouraging them back. All of these are part and parcel of the camaraderie to be found at the Sanctuary - the result of being involved in a very worthwhile purpose, and at the same time being part of a social environment with others of a similar outlook.

In late February, Trustees and staff held an afternoon BBQ function to acknowledge the very significant contribution of volunteers to the Sanctuary, the event coincided with the upgrade of the NBS Visitor Centre (almost) being completed. This BBQ had a terrific turn-up, as Trust Chair I enjoyed meeting many of our volunteers and listening to some of the 'fishing' stories that abound on such an occasions. The upgraded NBS Visitor Centre is a credit to all involved directly or indirect - one that everyone involved with the Sanctuary should take pride in.

I believe that the enjoyable social involvement that permeates the volunteer personnel of the Sanctuary is a critical aspect of ensuring the sanctuary's ongoing success and enabling it to meet its objectives.

Whilst the Trust currently has over 450+ volunteers registered 'on the books' we're always looking for more. If you'd like to learn more about the work of volunteers in the Sanctuary, click here for a series of 11 videos on our volunteer teams, or register your interest in becoming part of the camaraderie by becoming a Sanctuary volunteer.

Ngā mihi Chris Hawkes, Chair BWST



eNews March 2023 Kākāriki karaka update

KĀKĀRIKI KARAKA UPDATE

On Friday 17 March the seventh translocation of kākāriki karaka to the Sanctuary took place with another 12 birds released into the Sanctuary. The kākāriki karaka population has been thriving and this brings the total number of birds translocated to the Sanctuary to 125. The new birds helping to strengthen the genetic foundations/diversity of the growing flock.

It's worth reiterating that as well as the conservation (or ecological) significance, the translocations of the manu is culturally significant as kākāriki karaka are a taonga species and the birds are being transferred outside of the Ngāi Tahu takiwa. Both sending iwi (Ngāi Tahu) and receiving (Te Tauihu) iwi will act as custodians for the birds indefinitely.

Kākāriki karaka, also known as orange-fronted parakeet, were once abundant throughout New Zealand, especially the beech forests of the South Island. Following the arrival of Europeans, predation pressure and habitat loss drastically reduced their numbers. They were declared extinct twice during the 20th century. In 1980 a small population was rediscovered in Lake Sumner National Park. Further searches found them in nearby Hawdon, Andrews and Poulter valleys of Arthur's Pass National Park. In an effort to save the species, captive rearing of birds began at Isaac Conservation and Wildlife Trust's Peacock Springs facility in 2003.

With a total number of approximately 360 birds, kākāriki karaka are the rarest of New Zealand's parakeets and one of the rarest of New Zealand's forest birds. They are classified as threatened – nationally critical.

Orange-fronted, yellow-crowned and red-crowned parakeets once co-existed. While they have similar habits, diets and breeding biology, they inhabit different niches within the forest. Yellow-crowned parakeets tend to forage in the upper canopy, orange-fronted in the mid-canopy and red-crowned low or on the ground. Red-crowned parakeets are now rare on the mainland, but continue to do well on Stewart Island and on offshore islands.

The growing population of kākāriki karaka at the Brook Waimārama Sanctuary is significant for the conservation and survival of this taonga species.

<u>Click here</u> to view our short (9.5 minutes) video on the return of kākāriki karaka to the Sanctuary.







Storm repairs completed eNews March 2023

COMPLETING OUR AUGUST STORM REPAIRS

The August 2022 event's ill effects took 6 months for the Sanctuary teams to rectify the damage and restore strength of some key assets like some walking tracks, hill stability and the integrity of the pest fence.

Although we remained pest free and secure throughout the event and thereafter, nonetheless the Sanctuary took a lot of damage in the form of small slips and slumps, downed trees and significant stream bank damage. The photos to follow show the volunteer assets and fence maintenance team working on parts for the pest fence that have been strengthened.

Once again thanks to key staff and volunteers for their efforts at keeping the Sanctuary secure over the last 6 months during this difficult period.

We should also acknowledge our anonymous donors of materials and direct support, to all the public who contributed to our appeal and to our insurance broker AON, whose staff have been very helpful throughout the period.









THE STORY BEHIND OUR NEW SANCTUARY SIGNAGE

A JOURNEY BACK IN TIME

When people visit our Sanctuary, they don't just take a step into one of New Zealand's most authentic nature reserves—they take a step back in time.

That was the story we wanted to tell when we first started the upgrade of the Visitor Centre — a journey through time. We wanted people to experience what Aotearoa was like before the arrival of humans. To communicate this story we partnered with Downing, a local creative marketing agency that specialises in brand identity.

Downing proposed a solution that would allow visitors to engage with the information in a clear and interactive way. Their team developed the overarching narrative, created much of the content, and designed the information panels throughout the visitor centre.

"The main thing we wanted to communicate was the going back in time idea," says Tony Downing, founding director at Downing. "We are used to seeing time displayed from past to present, we wanted to flip that on its head and go from present to past."

The story panels that will be installed along the path at the front of the building will display that reverse timeline as part of the narrative. The closer you get to the Sanctuary, the further back in time you go. "Working your way backwards through time really highlights how much humans have impacted the environment here," says Tony. "From damming the river, to introduced pests, it makes you ask yourself, what if we could go back and change some of that?"

Creating the information panels was a collaborative effort. Working with volunteers, signwriters, photographers, historians, and iwi, the team at Downing worked to ensure the vision of the Sanctuary was evident and the story told. "One of the biggest challenges was not just gathering information, but displaying it the right way," says Tony. "We have a wide range of people that visit the Sanctuary on any given day — from conservationists to volunteers, to mums with their kids. Each audience comes with different needs and levels of understanding. It's like trying to paint a portrait with too many brushes in your hand, and all the colours need to match."

The information panels were well-received by visitors and staff alike, and have significantly impacted how people understand and engage with the Sanctuary. Upgrading the Visitor Centre not only gave our volunteers a better space to work but also allowed us to tell our story and show the public the vital work we do.

Downing

Downing | Creative Marketing is a Nelson-based design, brand and web development agency. For nearly 30 years, they have helped hundreds of organizations develop and grow their brands. From their studio in Buxton Square, they bring creativity and business thinking together to help their clients stand out, attract customers and add value - they call it The Art of Business®.



Tony Downing Director

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Below - concept design for the "journey back in time" story boards.



SCULPTURE NATURE 2023 TAKING FORM IN OCTOBER

Following the success of last year's event, the Sanctuary is starting to plan for Sculpt Nature 2023!

The Symposium will take place again in late October and will involve artists from across the motu who are interested in working with natural materials whilst promoting messages of conservation through their work. The winning sculpture will join our collection around The Loop Track. The Symposium is a wonderful opportunity for the Sanctuary to connect with the arts & culture sector in order to promote messages of eco-system restoration to the wider community.

If you'd like to support this initiative in some way, please get in touch: events@brooksanctuary.org.nz More details will be released soon!

EARLY BIRD BREAKFAST 14 MARCH 2023

On Tuesday, 14 March the Sanctuary welcomed 34 early morning visitors to our third annual 'early bird breakfast'.

This is a novel way to engage with clients, friends, supporters and to see the Sanctuary at a time of the day that is quite special. The Beech Glade has power and internet, we can organise tasty food boxes. All this is in a setting that features a population of $t\bar{u}\bar{\iota}$ and other wildlife alongside the Brook Stream. The use of the Beech Glade is encouraged by business groups and other special interest groups - if you'd like to know more contact: events@brooksanctuary.org.nz



Our thanks to event sponsor REZOURCE.



Sculpt Nature 2022 1st prize, POUAKAI by Donald Buglass





eNews March 2023 Upcoming events

SANCTUARY OPEN DAY SUNDAY, 16 APRIL

The autumn Open Day is taking place on Sunday 16 April from 10am - 4pm.

Join us to celebrate our native flora and fauna in an idyllic setting. Enjoy delicious street food, bask in the beauty of the pristine Waimārama stream, take a stroll along peaceful bush tracks or sit back and enjoy the birdsong. With lots to explore inside the Sanctuary and a kids activity zone, our Open Day is a great day out in nature for the whole family!

This year we will also have a focus on community trapping - we'll have traps for sale, along with talks/displays on kākāriki karaka in the NBS Visitor Centre - so come along and learn about how to get involved in conservation in action.

Find out more, and keep up to date check out our events page on the Sanctuary website, click <u>here</u>.



Gliophorus graminicolour Photo credit: Rebecca Bowater



SPEAKER EVENT WEDNESDAY, 19 APRIL

It's coming up to fungi season and what better way to celebrate than with a talk from award-winning photographer, and author, Rebecca Bowater!

Join us at 7pm, 19 April at our city office (Morrison Square, next to Aki Sushi) for a presentation from Rebecca to celebrate the launch of the third edition of her book 'New Zealand Fungi - A photographic celebration.'

Limited places available. RSVP essential, <u>click here</u> to confirm your place.



Rebecca Bowater in the field

GLOWWORM TOURS WILL BE BACK IN JUNE

Our popular glowworm tours will be returning in the winter months again. We'll make an announcement via Facebook when bookings open via the website.

VISITOR CENTRE HOSTS

The Visitor Centre at the Sanctuary is the "gateway" to the experiences that our visitors will have. Its operations are co-ordinated by Jazz and Mary-Anne who are assisted by about 20 volunteers, all of whom work to make the experience visitors have as friendly, pleasant and interesting as possible.

Volunteers welcome people as they arrive and ascertain the needs of each individual or group. This can involve giving information about the Sanctuary, its history, aims and how it operates, advising on the walks that are available and which may be suitable for them depending on walking ability and what they may want to see, answering any questions they have and ensuring they sign into our system for keeping a record of who is in the Sanctuary at any time.

Volunteers try to greet each individual or group on their return from their walk, getting feedback on anything from how they found the walk, what they saw, the condition of the tracks, to ensuring that they sign out so we know they are safely out of the Sanctuary. Often this is the most enjoyable and rewarding aspect of what they do, as it is so nice to receive the enthusiastic responses from people who have had a wonderful experience, enjoying the beauty of the place and the feeling of wellbeing that being amongst nature gives. It is also good to hear how much people appreciate how well the Sanctuary is presented and managed, and how it is improving all the time.

The enlarged Visitor Centre is a joy to work in and has received many complimentary comments from visitors

This year, for the first time we have extended our opening hours. This has been well worthwhile as we have had a steady stream of visitors most days. We have been open from 9am to 5pm for 6 days a week in February, and 5 days a week in March. We are finding that international visitor numbers exceed out-of-town NZ visitors quite often, and occasionally exceeds local visitor numbers.

Being a Visitor Centre volunteer is both rewarding and enjoyable.

SANCTUARY OPENING HOURS MARCH | APRIL

MARCH

Open Wed-Sun, 9am - 5pm

APRIL

Open Wed-Sun 9am - 5pm Open Tue-Sun 9am - 5pm (during School Holidays)

TRUSTEE RESIGNATION

Sanctuary Trustee Debbie
Armatage resigned from the
Board last month; Debbie
served on the Board since
2019 and contributed
significant expertise in
marketing at the Board.
Debbie's resignation was
received and accepted with



regret and a token of appreciation will be presented to Debbie.

A replacement Trustee will be announced in due course.



VISITOR NUMBERS

Visitors numbers to the Sanctuary are looking good, Jul22 - Mar23 (month to date) we've had 11,284 visitors to the Sanctuary, this number is well up the same period in previous years. January finished just slightly below Jan22 visitor numbers, but visitors in February were up 78% on the previous year!

It's especially pleasing to see the return of international visitors to the Sanctuary, In Feb23, 21% of our visitors were from overseas, 68% were Nelson/Tasman locals and the remaining 11% were out-of-town visitors from elsewhere in New Zealand.

We expect to finish the current financial year with a record number of visitors to the Sanctuary.

BEECH GLADE SESSIONS

On Saturday 18 March we held our fourth and final Beech Glade Session, a seasonal offering of stripped back music and performances in the beautiful Beech Glade.

The sessions are about encouraging people to connect with the arts and nature in an intimate setting, and if you're lucky you might even notice some of the birds joining the audience too.

70 people who attended the event on Saturday to see KLEZOUM enjoyed a great set played in an engaging and infectious style.

Previous Beech Glade sessions this season were:

- Bob Bickerton, Taonga Puoro by Sunset
- The Nelson Bays Harmony Chorus
- The Adam Troubadour Quartet

We look forward to continuing to work with Nelson's arts and cultural sector and are currently planning next summers' Beech Glade events programme.



Bob Bickerton at Taonga Puoro by Sunset



Nelson Bays Harmony Chorus



Above and below - KLEZOUM perform





Adam Troubadour Quartet - held inside due to weather

Our connections eNews March 2023

OUR CONNECTION WITH MAORI/IWI

An outline of the trusts' connection with Māori begins before the creation of BWS charitable trust document and founding values. Māori interests in the Brook stream and valley are linked to tribal boundaries, which are completely different to council boundaries. The 2014 settlement agreement with the crown indicates that at least six (6) of Te Tauihu (top of the south) iwi, have an interest in the Brook reserves lands. The 'Whakatu' iwi (the iwi that have a presence at the Whakatu marae) are the iwi/Māori that we have most contact with. The Sanctuary Trust holds three seats open for direct iwi representation on the Trust.

Looking to the future we want to directly engage with local iwi to demonstrate and explain conservation messages to the wider community with storytelling and with appropriate use of Te Reo, in the Sanctuary setting.

Species introductions are an important element within ecosystem restoration that involves sending iwi, receiving iwi, DOC, Nelson City Council (the landowner) and the Sanctuary Trust. The arrangements might involve different iwi groups whose interests are specific to a particular species, Tikanga is observed with every taonga translocation. It's extremely important to us that we work closely with iwi to ensure key responsibilities are acknowledged and maintained by all parties.

Te Ao Māori, the physical and spiritual worlds are not easy concepts to explain, and we think should be led by authentic understanding. To embrace the Māori perspective of the ngahere (forest/bush) offers all of us an unique approach and style that helps us all to understand principles such as kaitakitanga in a very kiwi way.

Our intention is to keep building solid relationships with Māori/iwi who have a direct interest in the outcomes of the Sanctuary. Growing valued partnerships with 'iwi' is essential for the Sanctuary to become truly self-sustainable.

OUR CONNECTION WITH A LOCAL BUSINESS COFFEE

Sublime Coffee Roasters was founded in 2005 with some core beliefs that we stand by to this day; quality coffee and community. Over the course of 17 years these beliefs have stood the test of time and we are proud to be one of the largest family-owned coffee companies in New Zealand. Sublime encompasses Emma, Dan and their four kids, alongside the Sublime whānau of expert operators focused on roasting, training and service, stellar baristas who sling ripper coffees all day long, as well as an ever expanding clan of exceptional wholesale cafe outlets.

Support from Sublime

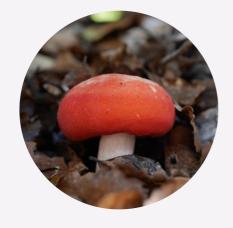
"Our green beans arrive to us in hessian sacks. Once we've roasted the coffee we sell the empty sacks for \$4 donations through our Brew Bar on New Street, our original espresso bar on Haven Road and in our espresso bar in Palmerston North. We donate 100% of the funds raised to a different charity every few months. Over the years we have supported a range of different charities and community projects, including St John, Nikau House, I am Hope and Brain Tumour Support NZ. We've chosen to support the Sanctuary over the next few months. It is our hope that many small steps can make a huge difference. We love seeing how people repurpose the sacks, they are commonly used to make cushions, hats and are pretty handy for the garden!"



RECENTLY SEEN IN THE SANCTUARY

If you have some great photos taken in the Sanctuary that you'd like to share in future issues of eNews send them to: info@brooksanctuary.org.nz

Russula kermesina © Deb Corbett





Favolaschia calocera © Deb Corbett

Kākāriki karaka © Sean McGrath





Cyclocybe parasitica © Rebecca Bowater

NZ Easter Orchid *Earina autumnalis* © Deb Corbett





Marasmiellus bonii © Rebecca Bowater

Fleshy Tree orchid Drymoanthus adversus © Steffie Kuenstle





Simocybe phlebophora © Rebecca Bowater

GOT A BIKE YOU DON'T NEED? DONATE IT!

At the Sanctuary we're keen to support community initiatives that help with our traffic management, the number of vehicles visiting the Sanctuary and vehicle parking requirements. Encouraging people onto bicycles and biking up to the Sanctuary is a great idea in our book!

Bike Hub Nelson takes unused bicycles, fixes them up and passes them on to people who really benefit from them.

Over the last month they've re-homed 106 bikes. That's 106 bikes that have been donated, repaired by volunteers, and then matched with someone who needs a bike.

In order to keep up with demand, the Hub's going to need more bikes so, please, if you have a quality bike that you don't need, think about donating it.

Recipients include a wide range of Nelsonians, among them, people referred by agencies, including the Salvation Army, Work and Income, Red Cross, St Vincent de Paul Nelson Tasman, the Nelson Tasman Housing Trust, Whakatu Te Korowai Manaakitanga Trust, Tahunanui Community Hub - Te Tari Hapori ki Tahunanui, Helping Families Nelson, Mana Whānau Charitable Trust and NMIT.

Bike Hub Nelson's coordinator, Matt Lawrey, says the not-for-profit is fighting poverty, increasing people's opportunities to participate in society, reducing congestion, reducing emissions, fighting obesity, growing the cycling market and freeing up room in people's garages, basements and lock-ups.

"We even had a youth worker recently tell us that, by making bike ownership possible for everyone, Bike Hub Nelson's work may even lead to a reduction in bike thefts," he says.

Bikes can be dropped off at the workshop in Saxton Field (Open Mondays 5.30pm to 7pm and Wednesdays 2.30pm to 4.30pm) or volunteers can pick them up.

For some great stories about Bike Hub Nelson's work and impact, check out the project's Facebook page.

To contact Matt Lawrey, call or text 027 406 3434 or email: <u>mattlawrey7010@gmail.com</u>.

Heading to the Sanctuary? Why not leave the car at home and bike up? Fun for all the family!



Wakefield's Community Constable Jamie White drops off unclaimed bikes to Nelson Bike Hub coordinator Matt Lawrey.



Bike Hub Nelson's Tuesday crew of bike mechanics (all up they have around 40 volunteer bike mechanics).

BRIAN POLLOCK SHELVES & DISPLAY CABINETS

Our sincere thanks to Brian Pollock, Sanctuary Volunteer, for his efforts creating new display cabinets/shelving for displaying our sales merchandise - they're terrific!

We've had a noticeable increase in the sales of merchandise, Jane's Jams, Pam Pope's cushions and the honey donated by FSL Foods since the new shelves and cabinet went in.

DONATIONS & SPONSORSHIPS

We wish to thank the Booster Wine Group for their generous financial support for the tuatara translocation project this month. The Booster contribution, together with a grant from the Frimley Foundation in January 2022 means that the tuatara project can get underway.

We would also like to thank the many individuals who make regular donations to the Sanctuary. All donations whether large or small are very much appreciated.

GRANTS

The Sanctuary has this month received a grant of \$5,000 from the Alexander Harold Watson Charitable Trust for our project to replace DOC200 traps with new stainless steel traps. In November 2022 received \$5,750 from a Nelson City Council Environment Fund grant for the same project which is now underway, the new traps are currently being manufactured in Auckland.

VISITOR CENTRE UPGRADE

We're still working on some of the 'finishing touches' to the NBS Visitor Centre upgrade.

On Monday 20 March the brand new Sanctuary sign was installed on the front of the visitor centre. The very large red beech flitch was sourced from a downed tree close to the Sanctuary; Brian Pollock worked more magic preparing the wood and Cutting Edge signs crafted the signage.

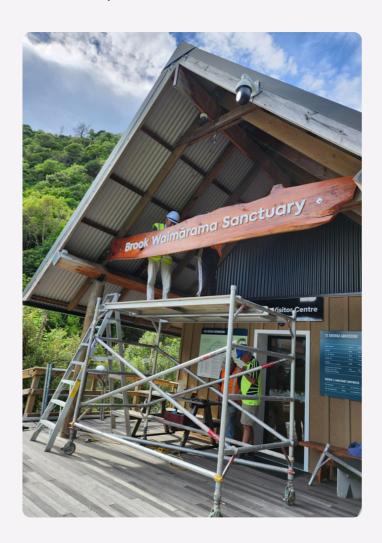
Still to come, stainless steel handrails (funded through grants from the Lion and Mainland foundations) for the pathway up to the Visitor Centre, and 'turning on' the solar panels to generate electricity with surplus electricity put 'into the grid'. Four bilingual journey boards are to be located along the new access path - thus completing the landscaping and signage drawing visitors into the visitor centre.



Brian's work displaying sales goods at the NBS Visitor Centre



Goods on display on Brian's shelves in the town office in Morrison Square (next to Aki Sushi)



Endemic species profile eNews March 2023

ENDEMIC SPECIES FEATURE

It's important to celebrate what we already have within the Sanctuary. Some species, such as toutouwai (South Island Robin) and titipounamu (rifleman) are more unique than most of us realise. We aim to profile a species in each issue of our newsletters with the input of our ecologist Robert, volunteers and other staff.

KOEKOEĀ Long-tailed cuckoo Eudynamys taitensis

Koekoeā or the long-tailed cuckoo (*Eudynamys taitensis*) is little-known forest bird species native to Aotearoa/New Zealand. Koekoeā are largely insectivores but can also be a fearsome predator for small vertebrates, including tiny rifleman/tītipounamu (*Acanthisitta chloris*) nestlings!

The koekoeā is rarely seen and often difficult to observe closely. In flight however, its long tail (as long again as its body) makes it unmistakable even though its shape may superficially resemble that of a falcon. The harsh and piercing screeching zzhweeep call is another point of distinction.

It has several unique life history traits that are highly intriguing: together with its cousin the pīpīwharauroa or shining cuckoo (*Chrysococcyx lucidus*), koekoeā is the only migratory forest bird species in the country. Koekoeā carry out long annual trans-oceanic migrations from and to their vast overwintering grounds covering an arc of Pacific islands extending 11,000 km from Palau (Micronesia) in the west to Henderson Island (Pitcairn group) in the east. After an up-to 6,500 km long migration koekoeā arrive in spring and start breeding in October. Unlike the shining cuckoo, koekoeā only breed in New Zealand and nowhere else which means it is an endemic breeder.

Like most cuckoos koekoeā are parasitic: they lay a single egg in the nests of pīpipi/brown creepers (Mohoua novaeseelandiae), pōpokotea/whiteheads (Mohoua albicilla) (North Island) or mōhua (Mohoua ochrocephala) (South Island), which incubate it and then rear the chick. No detailed studies about their breeding ecology have been carried out and many details of the eggs and young are poorly known.

Koekoeā is probably the least studied forest bird in New Zealand and most of its life history traits remain an enigma. For example, no population estimates or densities are available. However, koekoeā threat status has recently been moved from 'At Risk – Naturally Uncommon' to 'Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable' due to a significant decline in numbers based on call count data. Their main threat is the ongoing decline of host species, which has occurred in large parts of New Zealand. For example, mōhua were once one of the most abundant forest birds, inhabiting all forest types across the South Island, but now only occur in a few isolated populations in the South Island.

Koekoeā have never been recorded in the Brook Waimārama Sanctuary but there has been at least one record in the Nelson area in recent times. Therefore, reintroducing threatened mohua to the Sanctuary would also allow koekoeā to return.



Adult whitehead feeding much larger koekoeā chick Photo credit: Adam Clarke, www.nzbirdsonline.org.nz



Photo credit: Adam Clarke, www.nzbirdsonline.org.nz

Author: Robert Schadewinkel, Sanctuary Ecologist