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## MESSAGE FROM CHRIS HAWKES TRUST CHAIR

The establishment of the pest fenced-sanctuaries, such as The Brook Waimārama Sanctuary, is an ongoing fundamental to ensure the future security of our treasured native taonga for today's and future generations.

Whilst for NZ to be predator-free by 2050 is a noble national objective, in all reality with current government levels of focus and support, it is a pipe dream! Past and present government financial support, which is critical to ensure project success, is clearly a low priority - witness the ranking of the Minister of Conservation (twelfth placed in cabinet), and the Minister for the Environment is a Minister outside of Cabinet.

Species such as kākā, toutouwai and kiwi will struggle to survive in significant numbers as they are pest sensitive, their long-term viability outside fenced sanctuaries is in a precarious position.

Predator sensitive species such as: tīeke (saddleback), titipounamu (rifleman), ngirungiru (tomtit), toutouwai (South Island robin), kākārīki karaka (orange-fronted parakeet) will be lost outside of pest fenced sanctuaries. These comments were endorsed by Jim Lynch, who was involved with the establishment of Kaori Sanctuary (Zealandia) on a recent visit to the Brook Sanctuary.

Jim observed, "The most populated place for native birds in NZ is Wellington Central - hands down - due to the halo effect of the fenced Kaori Sanctuary. There are very few places in NZ that can boast such strong, vibrant and diversified native bird life. Pointing unquestionably to the value and contribution fenced sanctuaries can make in this critical conservation work." The Brook Waimārama Sanctuary is striving to achieve the same sort of result for our region.

It is questionable whether government, and various government portfolios and agencies appreciate the value of pest fenced sanctuaries and their positive contribution to preserving native fauna and flora. Experience and interaction with government has confirmed that, in particular, mainland fenced sanctuaries are a low priority on the agendas of both past and the present government.

All sanctuaries need to gather as one, particularly fenced mainland ones, to advocate for change. There is less than 10,000 ha of land in NZ protected from predators by a pest fence - a disturbing fact.

The Board of Trustees is aware there will be limited, if any, central government financial support for our fenced sanctuary any time in the foreseeable future. We are fortunate to have support from the Nelson City Council (unfortunately not from the Tasman District Council) and a number of commercial interests and philanthropic funding bodies working with us. Current funders and partners recognise the many positives the Sanctuary brings not only to the protection and enhancement of our native taonga but also to the people of the region.

**Continued next page...**

## MESSAGE FROM TRUST CHAIR CONTINUED...

Having a genuinely wild area, safely tracked, under 10 minutes from the city centre is quite unique. The Sanctuary, with its ease of access is becoming a significant attraction to both visitors to the Nelson Tasman region and local citizens alike. The Sanctuary is a place that visitors can find tranquillity of mind, alongside active enjoyment of both the sights and sounds of the natural environment.

Jim Lynch provided us with a quick critique of the Sanctuary. Since his last visit (about 2018), the Sanctuary has moved forward in leaps and bounds with increasing bird life. He estimates we could be approaching bird carrying capacity in 5-7 years and advises that we need to keep abreast of our bird carrying capacity per species and estimates of current populations. As an aside, the skills, activity and results from our bird monitoring team was explained to Jim - he was impressed and encouraged by what he heard.

Jim was positive about the potential of our kākā holding aviary for rearing captive kākā as he believes this will attract wild birds which can then be encouraged to reside in the Sanctuary. Jim was very strong on kākā, kiwi and tuatara being essential reintroductions to the Sanctuary's ongoing success.

The Sanctuary Trustees, management and staff have all been working quietly behind the scenes on gaining the necessary regulatory approvals and agreements from the Department of Conservation and a number of iwi for additional translocations to the Sanctuary. All of the species mentioned by Jim Lynch are part of our future vision for Sanctuary. Unfortunately, wheels turn very slowly so the approval processes are lengthy and complicated.

To conclude, there are a number of (species translocation) initiatives that are approaching fruition that will be enormously positive for both the Sanctuary - we hope to make some exciting and significant announcements in the not too distant future.

**Chris Hawkes, Trust Chair**

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR... THE EVENTS TEAM

Over the past couple of years, the Sanctuary has significantly increased the number and variety of Sanctuary events with offerings such as Open Days and Beech Glade sessions for the public, early bird breakfasts for our business supporters and Speaker Events for our volunteers. We're (rather desperately) appealing for more volunteers to join the volunteer events team to support the work done by Liv Gallagher events, promotions and media coordinator and her very small team of volunteer assistants. If you're interested in helping out, contact: [events@brooksanctuary.org.nz](mailto:events@brooksanctuary.org.nz)

## SANCTUARY OPEN DAY 7 APRIL 2024



Our Open Day is happening again on Sunday 7 April 2024!

Join us for Nelson's Big Green Day Out, a family-friendly event celebrating the rich biodiversity of Aotearoa's native flora and fauna in the picturesque setting of The Brook Waimārama Sanctuary. Indulge in delectable street food, discover key conservation milestones, and immerse yourself in the serenity of the pristine Brook Stream. Whether you prefer a leisurely stroll along peaceful bush tracks or simply want to relax and enjoy the birdsong, this event offers something for everyone. Plus, with Free Entry, it's an ideal combination of education and fun for all ages.

This year **the theme is 'The Halo Effect'**. Stay tuned for more information and a full activity line-up, coming soon!

If you'd like to help make this day a huge success for both our visitors and for the Sanctuary, please contact:

Liv Gallagher  
Events, promotions and media coordinator  
021 111 3052  
[events@brooksanctuary.org.nz](mailto:events@brooksanctuary.org.nz)

## EVER WONDERED, 'WHAT'S THAT PLANT?'



This year we'll be offering two free guided plant identification walks as part of the Sanctuary Open Day on 7 April. (Maximum of 20 people per walk).

The first walk will be at 10.30am and the second at 2.30pm, if you're interested, you can pre-register on the Open Day webpage (click [here](#)).

## KĀKĀRIKI KARAKA: A (VERY BRIEF) UPDATE



At the end of February we received reports that kākāriki karaka have been seen at the 1909 dam on the Valley Track, so they are now being seen down in the bottom of the valley on the visitor tracks - there's no guarantee you'll see them on a visit to the Sanctuary, but it's encouraging news. Kākāriki karaka have also been seen at Rock's Hut, which is about 2km outside the Sanctuary fence in Mount Richmond Forest Park.

## MOUSE EXCLOSURE

The mouse-exclosure fence was completed last year by the fence maintenance and assets team; the exclosure will benefit mouse sensitive species such as geckos, skinks and invertebrates. It will also enable us, in partnership with Ngāti Koata, to bring tuatara back to the region after a long absence.

After the fence was completed, a period of mouse eradication and monitoring followed. Just when we thought we had rid the exclosure area of mice more were detected! It took quite some time to identify that mice were getting into the exclosure area via a hole in the large rocks under the fence.

With typical kiwi ingenuity, the hole was uncovered and very watery mortar poured down the pipe using a road cone as a funnel!

Steffi our biosecurity ranger reports, "One mouse has been caught since the area has been concreted. The mouse was caught quite a bit away from where we originally found the holes underground, so we are not sure if it was one last remaining intruder or if it made its' way into the mouse exclosure recently. We will keep an eye on the area and hopefully no further detections will be made."

## RARE MISTLETOE SPECIES FOUND IN SANCTUARY



Pictured above, a dwarf mistletoe found in the Sanctuary by Henry from the weeding team and photographed by Chelsea. Featured is ***Korthalsella salicornioides*** - it's exceptionally small and grows on kānuka and mānuka trees; it is naturally uncommon and the species listed as 'threatened – nationally critical' due to its main hosts being in the myrtaceae or myrtle family and threatened by myrtle rust. It is not advised to attempt collection of this species of mistletoe so its great that we have it naturally occurring in the Sanctuary. These mistletoe are extremely difficult to see as they are so small, so congratulations to Henry for spotting them!



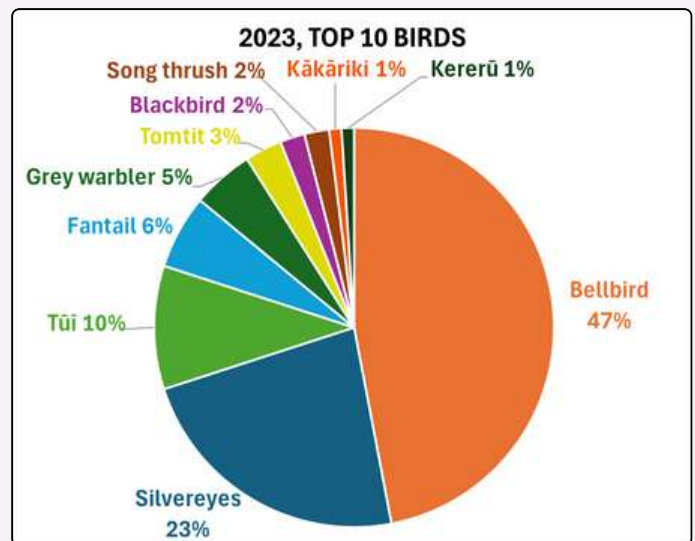
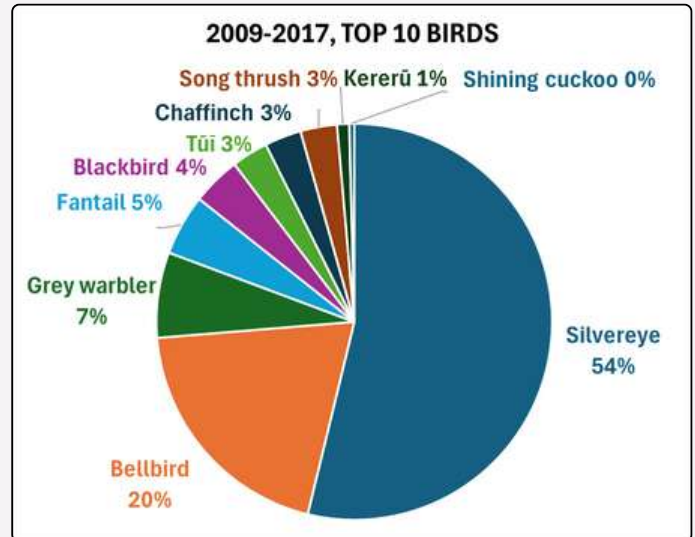
# CHANGING DYNAMICS OF BIRD POPULATIONS WITHIN THE SANCTUARY

Compiled by Katherine Chamberlain

The removal of mammalian pest species appears to favour many endemic bird species. In recent years endemic species such as korimako (bellbirds), tui, and ngirungiru (tomtits) have become more abundant, potentially outcompeting natives such as tauhou (silvereyes) and introduced species such as blackbirds and chaffinches.

The following pie charts show the relative abundances of the ten most frequently counted species from our five-minute bird counts during 2009-2017 and 2023.

Between 2009 and 2017, of the 10 most abundant species 54% were tauhou. Korimako ranked second at 20% of birds counted. Their relative abundances have since swapped places. In 2023 korimako ranked the most frequently counted bird (47%) while tauhou sat in second place (23%). This was a consequence of both an increase in the number of korimako and a concurrent decline in tauhou. Tui ranked third most abundant in 2023, up from sixth prior to 2018. Ngirungiru have benefitted greatly from the pest eradication; they did not rank in the top 10 between 2009-2017, but in 2023 were the sixth most abundant species. The year 2023 saw newcomers kākāriki karaka (orange-fronted parakeets) make the top ten, ranking ninth most abundant bird.



## Bird Art Competition

These school holidays make a piece of art to celebrate one of our feathery friends in the Brook Waimārama Sanctuary

**Possible methods**

- Paper mache
- Paint
- Clay
- Pastels
- Lego
- Cake

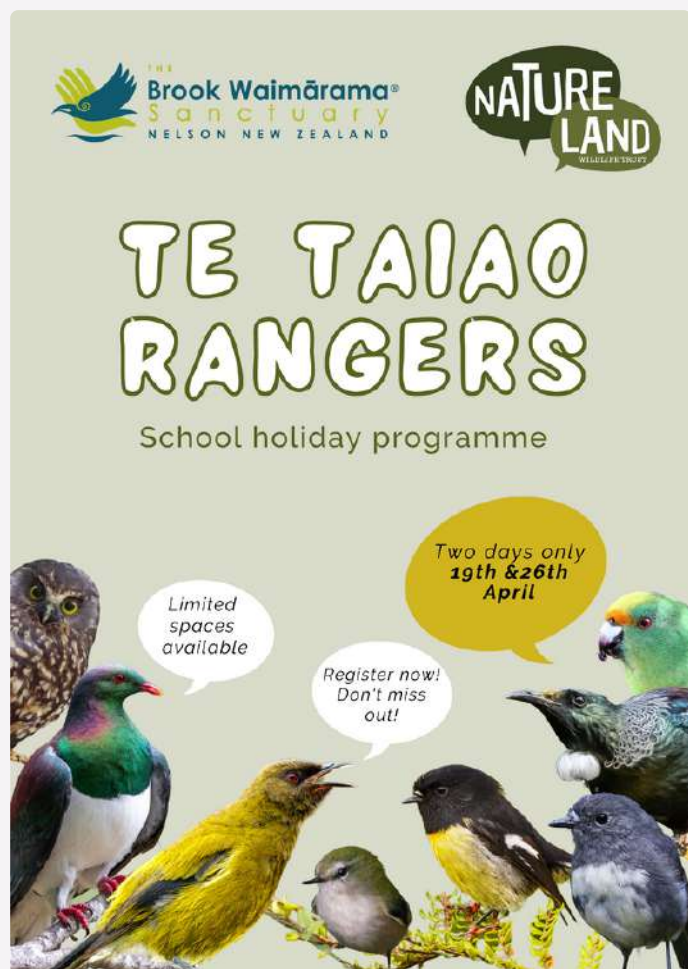
Send a photo or a scan of your art to [info@brooksanctuary.org.nz](mailto:info@brooksanctuary.org.nz) by the 29th April 2024 to win one of our great Sanctuary prizes



## NOTICE: WHITE ELEPHANT FUNDRAISER POSTPONED

The proposed white elephant auction sale/fundraising event has been postponed until a suitable site can be secured later in 2024. Hang on to your unwanted or no-longer needed 'stuff' for a while longer! The Sanctuary will need them for the auction later in the year!

## TE TAIAO RANGERS HOLIDAY PROGRAMME



We're joining forces with Natureland again to offer you an exciting holiday programme. A day filled with hands on conservation experiences, exploring the Sanctuary and learning about what makes Aotearoa's plants and animals so special. [Click here](#) for more details.

## YOUTH VOLUNTEERS IN THE SANCTUARY

At their most recent meeting Sanctuary Trustees approved a new policy position confirming that 16–17-year-olds can be accepted as Sanctuary volunteers (provided parental permission is received), this is a change from previous policy which required volunteers to be 18 years and over.

Youth volunteers will be required to go through the normal volunteer induction and onboarding processes; mentors for youth volunteers, especially those working one-on-one with youth volunteers will be police vetted. Volunteer team leaders and Sanctuary management are responsible for the training and safety of (all) Sanctuary volunteers.

## DISPLAY AT NELSON AIRPORT

If you're one of the many thousands to have passed through Nelson Airport recently, you hopefully saw our display, prominently featuring our beloved 'Moana the Moa'.

The Sanctuary is thrilled to showcase a pop-up promotional display at Nelson Airport, featuring Moana the Moa and a series of informative panels outlining our mission and goals, along with details about the kākārīki karaka re-introduction programme. So far, the response has been fabulous with visitors to the region taking selfies with the Moa as well as engaging with the information provided on the panels. We hope that this display will drive further awareness of, and visitation to the Sanctuary over the busy summer months.

We'd like to thank Nelmac/Kumanu for their generosity in loaning us native seedlings for the display, as well as to Nelson Airport for the opportunity and Lee Woodman for his help with the installation.



Based on feedback received at the Visitor Centre, and in the town office, we know this display is drawing attention to the Sanctuary and resulting in people visiting the Sanctuary.



## US DONORS CAN NOW DONATE TO SANCTUARY

Thanks to the interest in the Sanctuary by a visitor from the USA, US individuals, foundations and corporations can now make 'Donor Advised Gifts' (DAGs) to the Sanctuary through CAF America. With DAGs donors make a single tax-effective gift to CAF America and recommend that the funds be further granted to the foreign charitable organization of their choosing.

The Brook (Waimārama) Sanctuary Trust has now completed all the due diligence requirements and is eligible to receive grants from CAF America through to 28 February 2027.

CAF America Gift forms for available from [Nick Tilly](#), Office Manager

We have now received our first grant via CAF America, the funds are to be used to (partially) fund a reprint of the Sanctuary visitor maps.



## NOW SELLING LIFETIME SUPPORTER SUBS.

Planning to leave a bequest to the Sanctuary? Why not purchase a lifetime subscription? You get the satisfaction of supporting the Sanctuary now whilst you're still around to enjoy it, and the Sanctuary benefits from additional funds to apply now to current projects and operations!

After a bit of lull in sales of lifetime subscriptions (\$2,000 per person) - we've sold three in the first week of March - our thanks to the people who have taken out these subscriptions. (Note, these are lifetime subscriptions and as such, they're not tax deductible).

Mark and Raeonie Ellery recently became lifetime subscribers; they had originally intended leaving funds in their wills for the Sanctuary, but decided to help the Sanctuary now and to see their subscriptions put to good use immediately.

Lifetime subscriptions can be purchased through the Sanctuary website, [click here](#), or via EFTPOS at the town office in Morrison Square (next to Aki Sushi).



## WANT TO DONATE TO THE SANCTUARY?

The Sanctuary is always in need of money to fund our activities, whether day-to-day operations or special projects. Our experience, like that of virtually all charitable organisations in NZ at present, is that money is harder to come by, especially for funding overheads (eg wages, electricity, insurance, IT support and much more).

If you'd like to make a donation, small or large, it all helps us work towards our goals of restoring the ecosystem and saving NZs endangered species.

Donations, can be made through the Sanctuary website ([click here to donate](#)), or at the Visitor Centre or the town office.

Donations can also be paid directly into the Sanctuary's NBS bank account:

**03-1354-0561993-00**

Please ensure you include a reference that enables us to identify who the donation is from.

### CAN YOU HELP?

We have 28 Sanctuary related projects on the go at the moment, and almost all of them need some form of support!

Are you able to help? We need help with:

- Plywood for new DOC200 boxes
- New tracking tunnel materials
- Mouse exclosure landscaping and planting
- Weasel exclusion plates for fence hood joins
- pest fence materials like mesh, posts, hood.

If you are thinking about donating to these projects or want to know about other projects please contact either [info@brooksanctuary.org.nz](mailto:info@brooksanctuary.org.nz) or [ru.collin@brooksanctuary.org.nz](mailto:ru.collin@brooksanctuary.org.nz)

## ECOSYSTEM RECOVERY

(Below) Sanctuary, pics taken in 2007



(Below) Sanctuary, same locations, pics taken in 2017



(Below) the comparison of the volume and quality of the understory growing strongly inside the Sanctuary pest fence over just 7 years after grazing pests were removed, is a striking contrast.



(Below) the Dunn slip face had over \$5,000 of natives planted on it, but after 2-3 years regrowth is minimal due to high pressure from grazing animals such as goats, deer and possum. The native plantings have little chance of survival if pests are not controlled.



## EVENTS ROUND UP NBS BREAKFAST

On Tuesday 12 March we hosted one of our major sponsors NBS for a breakfast up at the Beech Glade Classroom.

Attendees enjoyed an al fresco breakfast amongst birdsong, raising some funds for the Sanctuary. We are grateful to NBS for their ongoing generosity toward the Sanctuary.

If you're interested in hosting your own company breakfast at our Beech Glade venue, contact [events@brooksanctuary.org.nz](mailto:events@brooksanctuary.org.nz)



## A RARE BIRD SEEN IN THE BEECH GLADE!

On Saturday 16 March the Sanctuary hosted a performance of 'A Rare Bird'. The event was a staged reading of a solo show written and performed by Elisabeth Easter, directed by Kerryn Palmer, and presented by Playtime Theatre. It focused on the life and work of ornithologist Perrine Moncrieff, a pioneering conservationist who was fundamental in setting up the Abel Tasman National Park. The show was well attended and was a great opportunity to hear the retelling of an inspiring story that has become part of our regional conservation history. Thank you to everyone who came along.



## BACK OF BEYOND BEECH GLADE SESSION

On Saturday 2 March, amongst the sound of cicada and birdsong, we hosted our final Beech Glade session of the summer season.

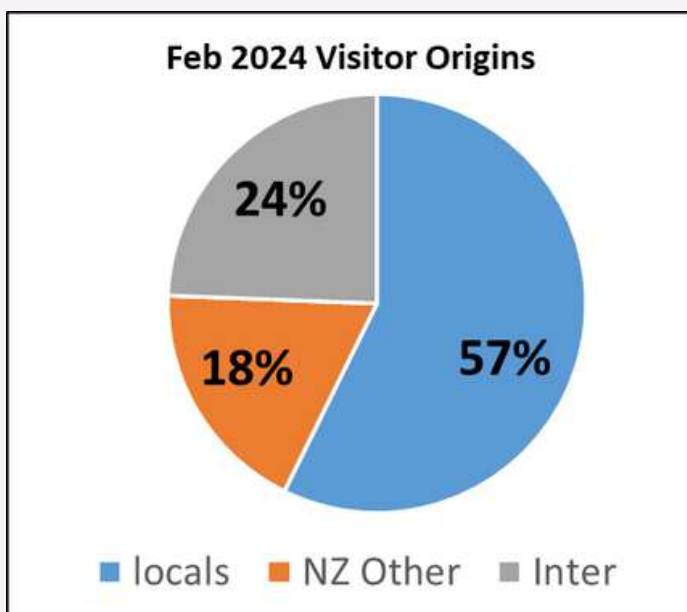
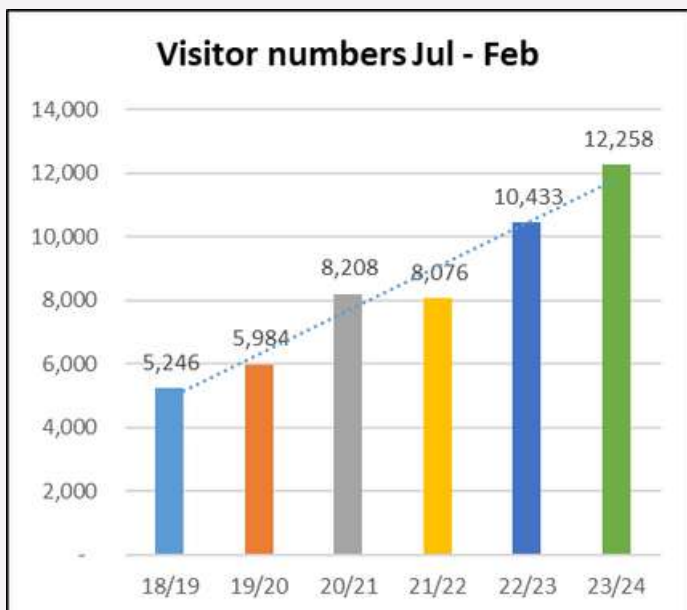
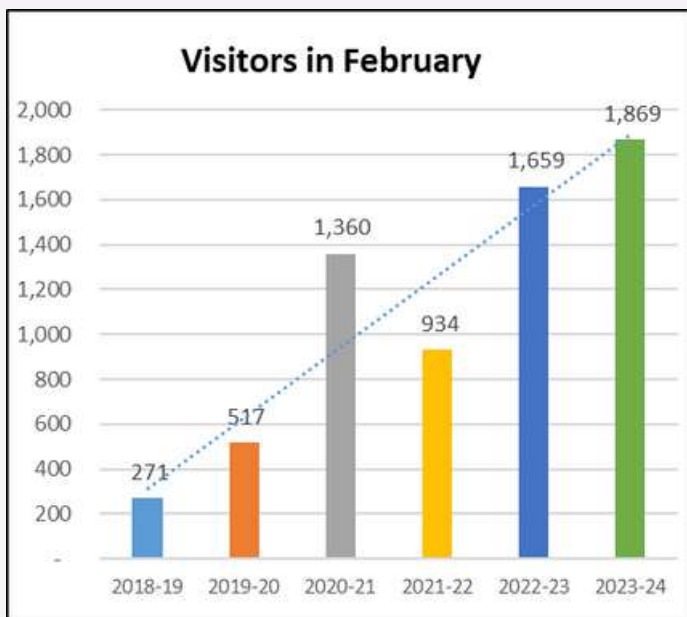
Event attendees and passersby alike enjoyed a relaxed outdoor concert by the talented musicians 'Back Of Beyond' (Craig Denham & Nathan Torvic), who played a stunning improvised set that spanned folk and world music to blues, grassroots and even the occasional impromptu flute solo to accompany the korimako and tūi song.

Our Beech Glade Sessions are a summer program designed to bring people closer to nature through music and various creative performances. These events usually don't involve any amplification, offering a unique experience that appeals to both music enthusiasts and nature lovers. This season we also saw concerts from Vibraphone player Jocee Tuck & a laid back Latin-inspired guitar concert with Alvaro Moreno.





## GOOD NEWS GRAPHS!



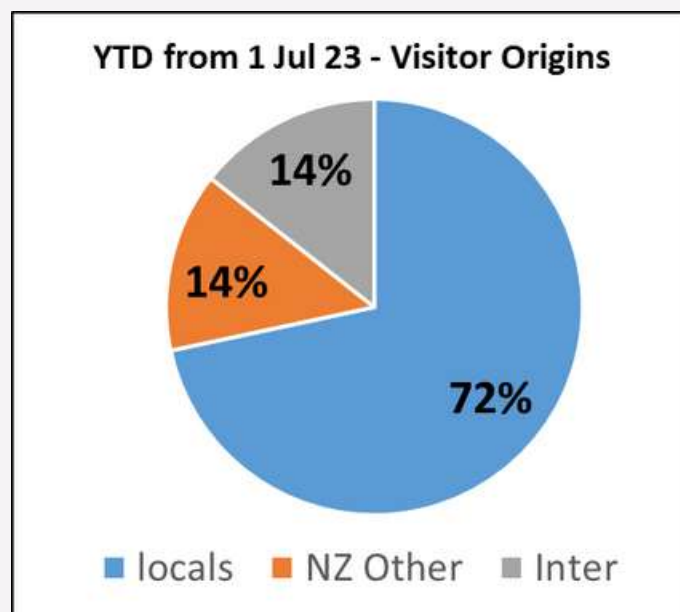
## STAFF NOTICES

It is with sadness that we note the resignation of Olivia Gallagher our Events and promotions coordinator. Liv's off to experience living and working overseas and will finish up with us 29 April. Recruitment to replace Liv is underway, with the intention of her part time replacement to start 1-2 weeks prior to Liv leaving for Europe. Liv was initially employed using 'Kaimahi for Nature' funding, and when that ran out we retained her services (and that of other staff also funded through the Kaimahi for Nature initiative).

Our ecologist Robert Schadewinkel will be away in Europe from 8 April for 6 weeks, and any queries that would normally handled by Robert should be directed to Nick Robson.

A little further down the track our Office Manager Nick Tilly is heading away in 8-23 June

And, then it's Nick Robson's turn for a holiday, He's heading to the UK departing 28 June, returning to work around 14 August.



## BUSINESS CLUB PROFILES



# Nelson Dental Centre

Our purpose-built surgery, located on the beautiful Maitai River is equipped to provide you with the highest standard of care.

We care about you and your family, and we care about our environment with a strong commitment to sustainability.

We aim to educate our patients in a safe environment while offering them comprehensive care. We understand that many people have anxiety about dental treatment, so we created a soothing environment and a scheduling system that never keeps you waiting long. By combining the latest technology with traditional techniques, we give our patients the best care in the region. Our Terms and Conditions will reassure you of this.

Nelson Dental centre is your "one stop" for general dentistry and oral health services.

We will give you the smile you deserve!

## SPONSOR PROFILE

# JENS HANSEN

SINCE \* 1960

Jens Hansen has a sweet spot for kiwis. Its popular, iconic Golden Kiwi pendant, handcrafted in Nelson and sold worldwide, is at the heart of the Jens Hansen Kiwi Establishment Fund.

A portion of proceeds from Golden Kiwi sales supports Brook Waimārama Sanctuary's efforts to reintroduce the kiwi pukupuku (little spotted kiwi). Jens Hansen has committed to four years of funding, which owner and creative director, Halfdan Hansen says is a natural fit for his Nelson-based company.

'When we designed the Golden Kiwi our goal was to honour an iconic New Zealand symbol. Lots of customers, including international visitors, wanted to purchase a piece of jewellery that would remind them of our country - it seemed appropriate to design a kiwi.

With Golden Kiwi sales taking off here and overseas, we felt it was time to give something back to our community. We're delighted we can support the Sanctuary in its efforts to create a kiwi-friendly habitat.

We're encouraging locals and visitors to come to our Trafalgar Square store to donate to the Fund. Our electronic 'tap and go' donation device makes it super easy to contribute \$5, and every dollar brings the kiwi closer to its new home.'



# Absolute Energy

Absolute Energy is 100% locally owned and operated. Managing Director Paul Brockie has been working in the building industry for 40 years and has specialised in energy efficiency and insulation for the last 20 years.

Book a free insulation assessment to find out if you are eligible for a Warmer Kiwi Homes grant. This is a government scheme which now covers 80 percent of the cost of retrofitting ceiling and underfloor insulation and combined with the Warmer Healthier Homes Te Tau Ihu Charitable Trust project, you could see your cost reduced to zero. (Conditions apply)

Combining expert advice and quality workmanship, Absolute Energy go the extra mile to provide a personal service. This includes their Post-Install Audit - once your insulation is installed, they send an assessor to check and sign-off on the work. This means you can be sure your insulation has been installed to the highest standard, a quality guarantee for your absolute peace of mind.

Beyond helping to lower your energy bill, good quality insulation creates homes that are made for living in. A warmer, healthier space, you and your family will be safe in the knowledge that it's a home for life.

Book your free home insulation assessment today!  
Phone 0800 423 454 or [www.absoluteenergy.co.nz](http://www.absoluteenergy.co.nz)



## RECENTLY SNAPPED

If you have some great photos taken in the Sanctuary that you'd like to share, please send them to [info@brooksanctuary.org.nz](mailto:info@brooksanctuary.org.nz)



Ngrunguru | Tomtit  
*Petroica macrocephala macrocephala*  
Photo credit: Matthew Edwards



Fern koru  
Photo credit: Rebecca Bowater



Raupeka | Easter orchid  
*Earina autumnalis*  
Photo credit: Jenny Edwards



Fungi sp.  
Photo credit: Brigitte Kriegenhofer



*Dendrobium cunninghamii*  
Photo credit: Jenny Edwards



Toutouwai | South Island Robin  
*Petroica australis*  
Photo credit: Deb Corbett



Dog vomit slime mold  
*Fuligo septica*  
Photo credit: Chelsea Haley



Kārearea | New Zealand Falcon  
*Falco novaeseelandiae*  
Photo credit: Matthew Edwards

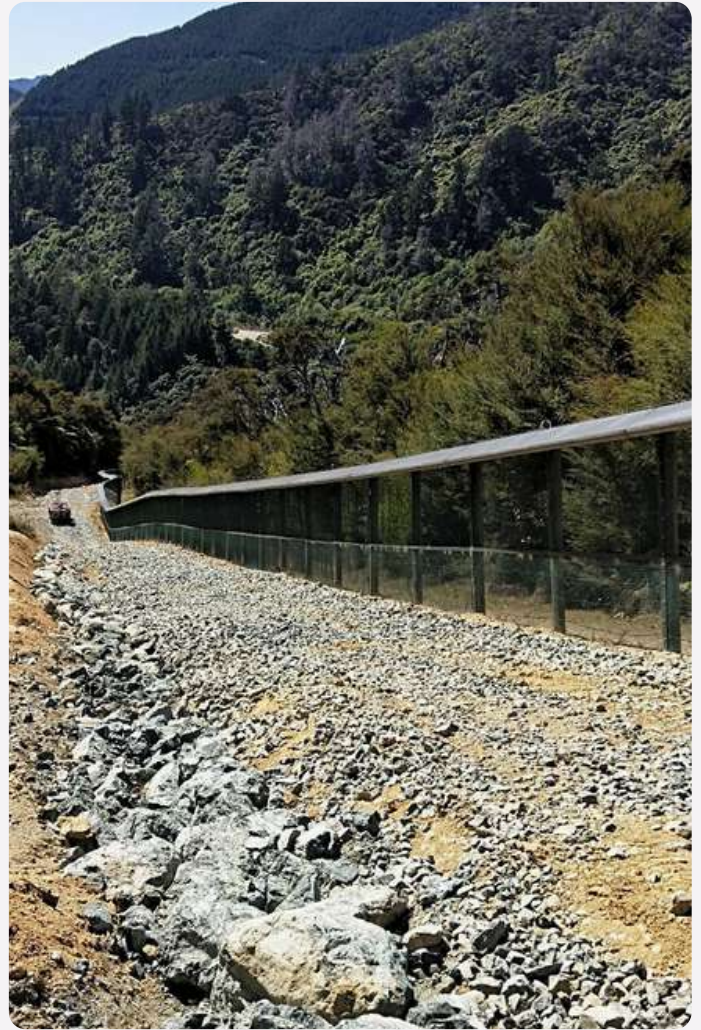


*Gastrodia cunninghamii*  
Photo credit: Jenny Edwards

## ERODED FENCE BENCH REPAIRS BY ISAAC'S

In recent weeks Isaac Construction have been working on some pretty significant repairs, fixing some 200+ metres of eroded fence bench on the western side of the Sanctuary.

These much needed repairs have been carried out at no cost to the Sanctuary as part of Isaac Conservation and Wildlife Trust's sponsorship arrangement with the Sanctuary. Our sincere thanks to Isaac's for this support/work.



## SPECIES FEATURE

It's important to celebrate what we already have within the Sanctuary. We aim to profile a species in each issue of Fan-tales (and eNews) with the input of our ecologist Robert, helped by volunteers and other staff.

### WAROU

#### Welcome Swallow *Hirundo tahitica neoxena*

While reported sightings of welcome swallows extend back to the 1920's, they didn't become established in New Zealand until the 1950's and 60's. Like silvereyes, welcome swallows are self-introduced from Australia (possibly blown here by storms), and thus are classified as native and protected. They are now widespread across New Zealand. Entirely insectivorous, they tend to be found near water where they swoop and dart to catch insects both above and occasionally just below the surface. Their graceful and high precision manoeuvres are possible thanks to their triangular wings and forked tails.

The welcome swallow is a pretty little bird with a glossy dark blue back, white belly and chestnut face and bib. The beak is short, but wide. Males and females look alike. Breeding season extends from August to February. Courtship behaviour includes chasing, tail-fanning, and the rubbing together of beaks. Pairs build their nests onto the sides and under-surfaces of both natural and manmade surfaces. Nests are comprised of mud with grass and other vegetation added for strength and lined with feathers, wool and other fibres. Only the female broods the eggs and chicks, but both parents feed the chicks. During the breeding season a pair may produce 3 clutches, each consisting of between 2-7 pink eggs with brown speckles.

Swallows often flock in winter. While they have no specific migratory route, they may travel to find reliable food supplies.

Welcome swallows are a common sight around the Sanctuary Visitor Centre.



Photo credit: Caiden\_b on iNaturalist



Photo credit: Oscar Thomas on iNaturalist



Warou (welcome swallow) chicks in Sanctuary  
Photo credit: Alistair Jerritt



Photo credit: Toya Heatley

Written by Katherine Chamberlain