



**PIPIRI | JUNE 2025**

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## *Announcing the arrival of kiwi!*

### **Kia ora koutou katoa to all readers of eNews for June 2025!**

What was once a dream has now become an incredible reality — kiwi pukupuku (little spotted kiwi) have officially made their home at the Brook Waimārama Sanctuary. This marks a truly historic milestone, and it's one we can all be immensely proud of.

Adding to the excitement, we're thrilled to share that more tuatara have also been welcomed into the Sanctuary, strengthening our commitment to restoring a thriving, predator-free ecosystem for Aotearoa's rarest species.

We've also completed our first year operating the Brook Valley Campground. This has been a major step forward in creating a seamless, nature-based visitor experience that complements the Sanctuary. Beautification work and a series of ongoing improvements are helping to transform the campground into a leading visitor destination — a place where people can truly connect with the valley, the forest, and the species we protect.

The journey to this point hasn't been without its challenges — including some wild weather — but the unwavering support, generosity, and aroha from our community has carried us through. Thank you to everyone who has made this possible — our incredible volunteers, dedicated staff, iwi partners, supporters, and sponsors. Your belief in this kaupapa and the hours of hard work, passion, and perseverance have turned vision into reality.

### **With Deep Appreciation**

We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed to the recent kiwi translocation — an extraordinary effort made possible by the commitment and collaboration of staff and volunteers from the Sanctuary, Save the Kiwi, and the Department of Conservation.

A special acknowledgement goes to Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira, whose support and guidance have been invaluable. Their connections across both sides of Te Moana-o-Raukawa (Cook Strait) and with ngā iwi o te Taihū o te Waka-a-Māui (the eight tribes of the top of the South Island) have been central to this kaupapa.

We also wish to thank the many businesses and organisations who got behind our kiwi campaign. Your backing played a vital role in bringing kiwi pukupuku home to Waimārama. In particular, we acknowledge the generous support of Nelson Airport, Bowater Toyota, Digital Diligence Ltd, Jens Hansens, and all those who champion the mahi of Kapiti Kiwi across Aotearoa.

A very special thank you to Karenna Wood of Elevate Consultancy Ltd for your marketing expertise and incredible drive during the kiwi campaign — your support truly made a difference.

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## CHIEF EXECUTIVE INTRO CONTINUED

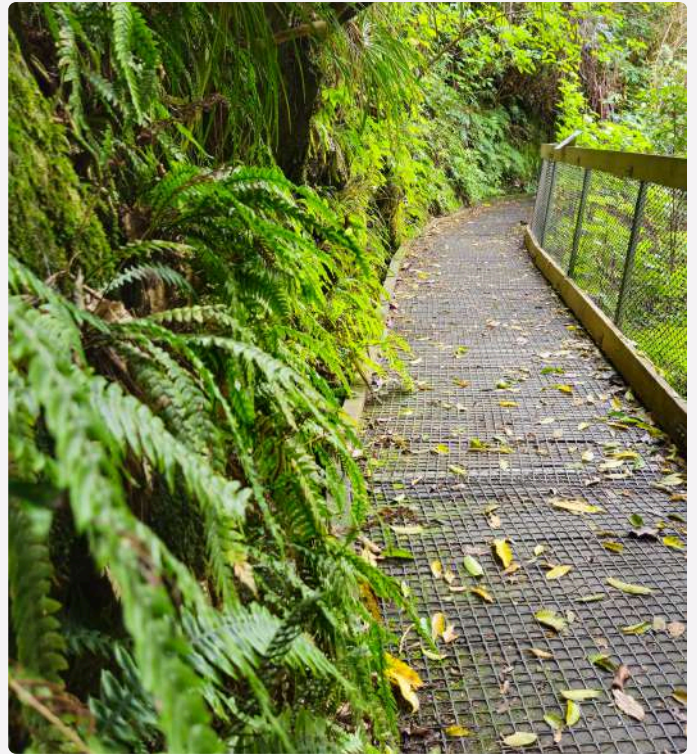
To the incredible staff at the Sanctuary and Campground — your behind-the-scenes mahi has been vital and is truly appreciated. To our dedicated volunteers — we simply couldn't do this without you. Ngā mihi nui for the time, energy, and heart you give so generously.

As we celebrate these milestones, we also look to the future with excitement. Our guided night tours will be running throughout July and August, offering visitors the enchanting experience of glowworms lighting up the ngahere — and if we're lucky, you may hear the calls of kiwi echoing through the valley.

Now is the perfect time to reconnect with nature. Gather your whānau and friends, and come explore the Sanctuary — it's good for the soul.

With the first kiwi calls sounding through the valley once more, let's pause to reflect on how far we've come — and the incredible journey still ahead.

**Ngā mihi maioha,**  
**Chris McCormack**  
**Chief Executive**



## EDUCATION AT THE SANCTUARY - RECENT SNAPS

Education – inspiring the next generation is the first line of defence in our conservation efforts.

Our aim is to enhance understanding of our connection with the land and mauri (life force), and of the importance to human beings of a harmonious biodiversity.



(Above) - The Tasman Home School Cooperative students enjoyed a wonderful nature experience walking in the Sanctuary and used our educational binoculars to observe the manu and Tuatara.



A student from Hawaiian Punahou High School gets hands-on with one of the Prickly Stick insects found in the Sanctuary.



## KIWI HAVE LANDED – A NEW CHAPTER BEGINS

Aotearoa's treasured kiwi pukupuku (Little Spotted Kiwi) have officially arrived in the Sanctuary - a long time in the making!

In an exciting milestone for conservation, 40 kiwi pukupuku were successfully translocated from Kāpiti Island to their new home in the Brook Waimārama Sanctuary in May.

On Wednesday 7 May, the first group of 10 males and 10 females arrived at Nelson Airport, accompanied by iwi representatives from the North Island. They were formally welcomed with a pōwhiri by ngā iwi o te Taihu o te Waka-a-Māui — the eight iwi of the top of the South Island.

A second cohort of 20 kiwi, 10 male, 10 female arrived on Sunday 11 May, following the same careful process.

We also had a late arrival to add to our numbers - making 41 kiwi in the Sanctuary. This bird, named "Wiremu" by Te Runanga o Toa Rangatira, had a mate already in the Sanctuary - when it was caught on Kapiti Island it wasn't in good shape and had an eye issue. It was sent to Massey for treatment during which it made a great recovery. It was decided in its best interest to be brought to the Sanctuary - this bird has recently been located up near the top of the Sanctuary.

This translocation marks a powerful collaboration between iwi, conservationists, volunteers and Sanctuary staff — and signals the beginning of a bold new chapter for the Sanctuary and native species recovery in Te Taihu.



Kiwi pukupuku footprints - Nelson Airport Terminal



Sponsor Bowater Toyota van - Bringing Kiwi Home









## "SLIPS, STORMS AND SWIFT RECOVERY: AN UPDATE FROM THE WEATHER EVENT"

The intensity of the rain on the 26 May was the greatest the Sanctuary has seen since the pest proof fence was completed in 2016. We don't know exactly how intense as both the Third House rain gauge and river flow monitoring in the Brook stopped working during the deluge.

This event has given us quite a few issues to fix;

- One hole under the fence with a large slip below it,
- An eroded track around the outside of the fence,
- Swales and culverts full of rock and soil,
- A culvert that got stuck open requiring a pest incursion response,
- A slip and a wash out on the Loop Track,
- A large slip near Totara Crossing,
- Damage to the Nikau and Carters tracks,
- 6 slips on monitoring tracks.

We have been inundated with offers of help from the local community. In the last three weeks volunteers and staff have made tremendous progress in fixing the problems.

The hole under the fence is now secure with steel cables anchoring the fence to bed rock. A pest proof access has been made in the base of the fence to allow further assessment and work to proceed. Contractors with a digger and bobcat have been working on the fence bench to improve the track around the fence.

Slips on the tracks have either been fixed or temporary diversions put in place so that the tracks can still be used. Most of the Visitor Track network is now open, with the exception of the Valley Track between the Forks and Flagstone Bridge which is not safe to open as a visitor track at present.

Complete repair of all the damage will take some months. However, the very successful public appeal will make it easier and quicker to get the repairs done. It will also enable us to improve the resilience of the fence to storm events, primarily by increasing the capacity of the stormwater system.



Fence and assets team strengthening the damaged fence



Track team repairing the Nikau track



Digging out a culvert to keep the storm water flowing



## EMERGENCY FLOOD APPEAL!

### Flood Appeal Update & Heartfelt Thanks

In the wake of the extreme weather event that struck the Brook Waimārama Sanctuary, we've been overwhelmed by the generosity and aroha shown by our community.

Thanks to your incredible support, our Emergency Flood Appeal has raised over \$115,000, plus a further \$15,000 from Air New Zealand, left over funds from their "Every Corner Project fund"— a vital contribution that is helping us respond to damage, stabilise affected areas, and protect the Sanctuary's precious biodiversity.

Every donation has made a difference, and we are deeply grateful to each and every person who gave or shared our call for help.

Should there be any surplus from this appeal, those funds will be held to assist with future emergency relief efforts, ensuring we're prepared to respond swiftly and effectively should we face further challenges.

A huge mihi to our tireless volunteers and dedicated staff. Your swift response, resilience, and continued mahi have been nothing short of inspiring. From inspecting the fence and clearing slips to assessing vulnerable tracks and infrastructure, your efforts are safeguarding the Sanctuary's future.

While there's still work to be done, your support reminds us that we're not alone in this. The Sanctuary is more than a place — it's a community, and together, we're helping it recover and thrive.



Deluge of weather that hit on Mon, 26 May



Track team repairing the Nikau track





## GUIDED NIGHT TOURS

Our much-anticipated glowworm tours are back — now reimagined as “A Night in the Forest” — starting this July!

These evening adventures build on the magic of our previous glowworm tours, with even more to discover. Alongside the dazzling display of native glowworms, you'll have the rare chance to hear the haunting calls of kiwi pukupuku echoing through the ngahere, and immerse yourself in the peaceful sounds of the Brook Stream at night.

Experience the Sanctuary after dark:

- Discover glowing glowworms nestled in the forest
- Listen for kiwi calls in the silence of the night
- Learn about the Sanctuary's nocturnal wonders from expert guides

This is a truly unforgettable after-dark adventure — a unique way to connect with nature, unlike anything you'll experience during the day.

Tours will run throughout July and August - contact us if you wish to book a private exclusive tour for your business.

Spaces are limited — bookings essential!  
Come see what awakens when the sun goes down.

Click here to book your tour: [A Night in the Forest](#)



Fluorescent lichen under a UV light.

## SANCTUARY OPENING HOURS: JUL - SEP

**The Sanctuary opening hours:**

Wednesday - Sunday, 10am - 4pm

School holidays, Tuesday - Sunday, 10am - 4pm



## TOWN OFFICE: NEW LOCATION

The Sanctuary's town office has now relocated to 54 Montgomery Square – formerly the COVID-19 vaccination centre, half-way along the Bridge St entrance to the carpark.

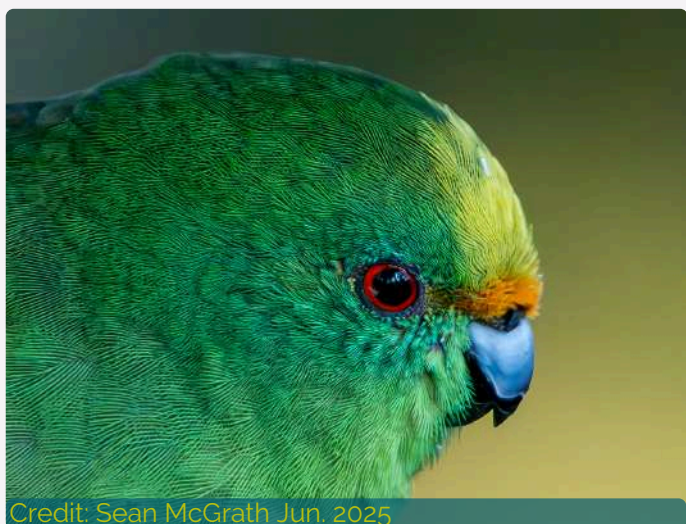


## BIRD OF THE YEAR 2025 "KĀKĀRIKI KARAKA"

We're excited to be this year's campaign managers representing the Kākāriki Karaka for Bird of the Year! Our theme: "Glow Up for the Kākāriki Karaka – Bright, Bold, and Back from the Brink!"

We'll be spreading the word and drumming up support for these vibrant little birds — and having a lot of fun along the way. If you're interested to join the flock and help champion the karaka, get in touch with Chris at: [chris.mccormack@brooksanctuary.org.nz](mailto:chris.mccormack@brooksanctuary.org.nz)

Last year, the Hoiho | Yellow-eyed Penguin took the crown — could 2025 be the year of the karaka?



Credit: Sean McGrath Jun. 2025



## NELSON FEATHERS SEAN MCGRATH'S BLOG

### KĀKĀRIKI KARAKA 2025 SURVEY UPDATE – A "QUIET" SUCCESS

Recently, a 24-strong team from DOC, Nelson City Council, and the Sanctuary carried out our annual kākāriki karaka survey using audio playbacks at over 150 points.

Be sure to check out Sean McGrath's blog for more details - [Kākāriki karaka - Nelson Feathers Blog](#),

## TUATARA UPDATE

Over the last few months, further tuatara have been translocated into the Sanctuary, bringing current numbers to 65. There are opportunities to view two tuatara from the Loop Track - building the visitor experience.



Cellphone photo from the Loop Track





## BOWATER MOTOR GROUP

### A Huge Thank You to Bowater Motor Group

We'd like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Bowater Motor Group for their continued support of the Brook Waimārama Sanctuary over the years. Their ongoing generosity and partnership play a valued role in helping us protect and celebrate our native taonga.

Most recently, Bowater Motor Group has taken their support a step further by including a special Brook Waimārama Sanctuary gift pack with every vehicle purchase.

These packs include a beautifully branded Bowater & Brook Waimārama Sanctuary kiwi tote bag, an adorable kiwi plush toy, and a family pass to visit the Sanctuary — a perfect way to connect new car owners with the natural beauty and conservation efforts happening right here in our backyard.

Thank you to the team at Bowater — we appreciate all the incredible work you do to support your community.



# Bowater Toyota



## NELSON AIRPORT

*Good things start here.*

### Thank you, Nelson Airport!

A huge thanks to Nelson Airport for their ongoing support of the Brook Waimārama Sanctuary and the 2025 Kiwi Campaign. Their generous mix of financial and in-kind support — from digital advertising and flags to fun activities in the terminal — helps us share our mission with locals and visitors alike.

Together, we're promoting meaningful, sustainable experiences while supporting the restoration of our region's precious biodiversity.

## SUPPORT THE FOUNDATION TRUST

You can invest money into the BWST knowing that the funds, no matter how big or small, can achieve a greater impact than what is possible through personal giving.

The Foundation illustrates clearly to our key partners and supporters the BWST's intention to build capital reserves, build contingency, and become more self-sustainable over the longer term. For more information, visit [here](#).







A huge thank you to Digital Diligence Ltd (DDL)

We're incredibly grateful to the team at Digital Diligence Ltd for their support and expertise in bringing our Kiwi VR experience to life for the Kiwi Campaign, which has been very popular at the Nelson Airport.

Their creativity and technical skills have helped us transport people right into the heart of the Sanctuary — giving them a unique chance to connect with the magic of kiwi in a truly immersive way.

This collaboration has been a game-changer in how we share our story and inspire support for kiwi conservation.

And, thank you to the incredible drone footage of the slip during the weather event, which has played a huge role in better accessing the extent of the damage.

DDL — thank you for your support!



## NBS: SANCTUARY SPONSOR

Have you seen the latest campaign from Sanctuary sponsor NBS? Check out what NBS clients had to say about why they bank with NBS.

At the Brook Waimārama Sanctuary, we're proud to bank with NBS because we see firsthand the difference they make. NBS has supported over 330 groups and contributed more than \$1.4 million in sponsorship — they're always there for our community, and for us.

Check it out online: [click here](#) to view NBS' short video

## BROOK BUSINESS CLUB

We invite local businesses to support the Sanctuary by becoming a member of the Brook Business Club Programme;

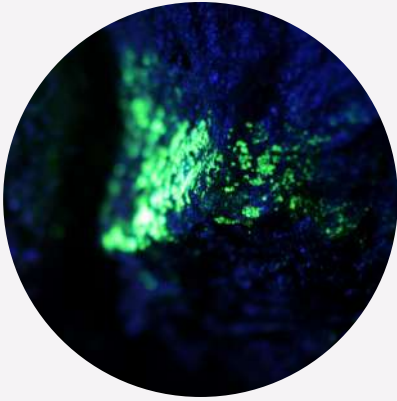
**Find out more: [Brook Business Club](#)**





## RECENTLY SNAPPED IN THE SANCTUARY

If you have some great photos taken in the Sanctuary that you'd like to share, please tag us on Instagram and Facebook @brooksanctuary or email them to [infor@brooksanctuary.org.nz](mailto:infor@brooksanctuary.org.nz)



Fluorescence lichen  
under ultraviolet (UV) light  
Photo credit: Chris McCormack



Kiwi pukupuku | Little-spotted  
*Apteryx owenii*  
Photo credit: Stefanie Kuenstle



Waxgill fungi  
*Hygrocybe* spp  
Photo credit: Rebecca Bowater



Ground Wētā  
*Anderus* spp  
Photo credit: Henry Hart



Violet Coral Fungi  
*Clavaria zollingeriari*  
Photo credit: Chelsea Haley



Waxgill fungi  
*Giliophorus* sp.  
Photo credit: Rebecca Bowater



Small Hover Fly  
*Melanosta fasciatum*  
Photo credit: Henry Hart



Leather-leaf Fern  
*Pyrrosia eleagnifolia*  
Photo credit: Henry Hart



Kakarui - South Island Robin  
*Petrocia australis* ssp. *australis*  
Photo credit: Henry Hart



## ENDEMIC SPECIES FEATURE

### KIWI PUKUPUKU | LITTLE SPOTTED KIWI

*Apteryx owenii*

Recently 41 kiwi pukupuku were released into the Sanctuary, but did you know? Kiwi pukupuku are the smallest of Aotearoa's 5 kiwi species. They weigh between 0.9 to 1.9kg. Their plumage is a light dappled grey with occasional brown.

Kiwi pukupuku were once widespread throughout New Zealand. Kiwi are members of an ancient group of birds known as Paleognaths. This sister group to all other birds contains mostly large flightless birds that have a reduced keel to their sternum to which flight muscles are generally attached. This clade includes living birds such as the ostrich, rhea, cassowary, emu and the small, flighted cousin to the moa called tinamous. The extinct paleognaths are famously the elephant birds of Madagascar and the moa of New Zealand.

The closest relatives of kiwi are the gigantic elephant birds, which likely shared their nocturnal habits. All Kiwi species are vulnerable to dogs especially due to their reduced flight muscles making them easily crushed by a curious dog. Chicks are vulnerable to mustelids and cats. Kiwi pukupuku being the smallest, are vulnerable to stoats even as adults. Especially males which are smaller than females.

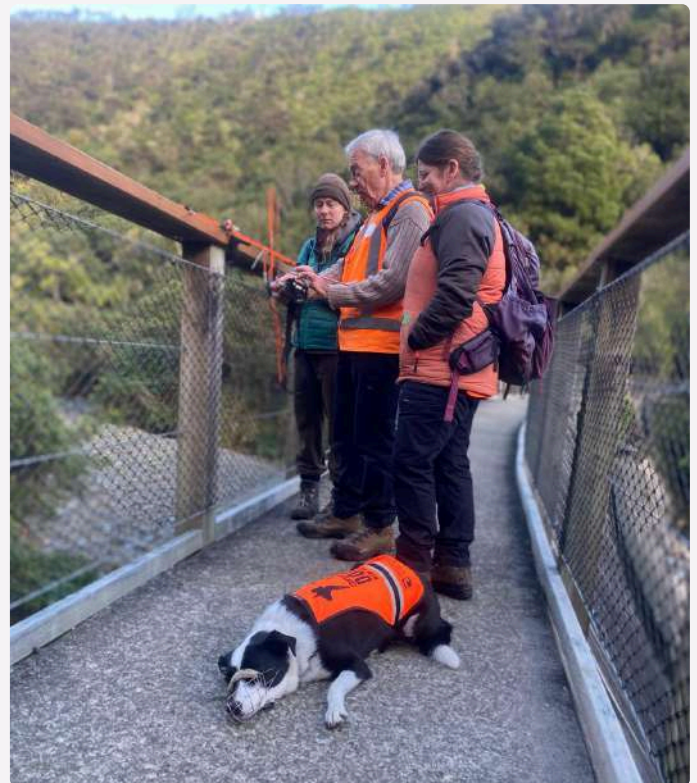
Kiwi pukupuku became extinct on the North Island around 1882. They persisted on the South Island in remote parts of Nelson, Westland and Fiordland until the 1900s before gradually disappearing, leaving a small relict population on D'Urville Island. In 1912 five kiwi pukupuku were transferred from the Jackson Bay area to Kapiti Island where they have since thrived. Kiwi pukupuku are now confined to offshore islands and a few mainland sanctuaries.

The kiwi that have been released into the Sanctuary were collected from Kapiti Island but are still descended from South Island birds. pukupuku like all kiwi are nocturnal and sleep in a burrow, hollow log, rock crevice or in dense vegetation. They spend their nights hunting for food by tapping their sensitive bills on the ground and using their superior sense of smell (an unusual adaptation for a bird) to detect prey just below the leaf litter or in rotten logs or soil.

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New transmitter goes on  
Photo credit: Stefanie Kuenstle



Nadine (Save the Kiwi), Tony, Chelsea + Spur reviewing the radio transmitter.



## KIWI PUKUPUKU | LITTLE SPOTTED KIWI

*Apteryx owenii*

Unlike other kiwi species, they do not plunge their bill deep into the ground rather staying at a surface level. Kiwi pukupuku live on a diet of mostly invertebrates like earthworms, beetle larvae and adults and spiders, with some occasional small fallen fruits and leaves.

Kiwi pukupuku are very territorial, with home ranges around 3.5 hectares each, and will use their loud whistling calls to advertise territories and maintain contact with partners. They will defend their territories fiercely.

The 10 male birds that were brought to the Brook Waimārama Sanctuary with transmitters have just had their transmitters changed to longer lasting ones for the breeding session. This gave staff and the Save the Kiwi team an opportunity to sample how the 41 birds are doing after their big translocation. After the stress of a translocation, it would be expected that the birds would lose weight .

Our kiwi however have either gained or maintained weight. This is likely due to good conditions and abundant food availability in the Sanctuary. One bird in particular gained a whopping 140g! With the breeding season beginning in July, we wish our little spotted friends all the best over the next 8 months.

They will now embark on the important task of repopulating the ngahere that once watched this beautiful species disappear. Now protected by our fence and the army of dedicated volunteers who made it happen.

**Compiled by Chelsea Haley**



Kiwi pukupuku | photo credit: Stefanie Kuenstle



Steffi using the radio transmitter  
Photo credit: Chelsea Haley



Photo credit: Stefanie Kuenstle