



PIPIRI | JUNE
2025

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Kia ora koutou,

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.

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 for standing with us every step of the way.

This achievement is a testament to the dedication of so many: our incredible volunteers, iwi partners, stakeholders, supporters, and generous sponsors. Your belief in this kaupapa and the hours of hard work, passion, and perseverance have turned vision into reality.

A special shoutout to the staff at the Sanctuary and Campground — your behind-the-scenes mahi has been essential and deeply appreciated. To our volunteers — we simply couldn't do this without you. Ngā mihi nui for your commitment and heart.

As we celebrate this moment, we're also looking ahead with excitement. Soon, we'll launch guided night walks through the Sanctuary, giving visitors the chance to hear kiwi calls and witness the magic of glowworms deep in the valley.

As the first kiwi calls begin to echo through the ngahere once again, let's take a moment to reflect on how far we've come — and all the hope that lies ahead.

Ngā mihi maioha,
Chris McCormack
Chief Executive



"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 Sanctuary 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,
- 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.

We can't say thank you enough to the great response by the volunteers in clearing up the damage from the storm, with emergency repairs and track diversions.

Thanks to your incredible support, our Emergency Flood Appeal has raised over \$115,000 — a vital contribution that is helping us respond to damage, stabilise affected areas, and protect the Sanctuary's precious biodiversity.

Air New Zealand contributed an additional \$15,000 — a clear reflection of the Sanctuary's value and its importance as a treasured community asset.

Every donation has made a difference, and we are deeply grateful to each and every person and organisation 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



COMMUNITY SUPPORT COMMENTS!

Below are just a few of the many comments shared by our community and supporters on social media — a testament to how deeply valued the sanctuary truly is.

One of Nelson's
jewels!

I'm proud to have
this incredible
sanctuary in this
beautiful town.

Sooo pleased you've
reached your target to
repair much loved
sanctuary!!!



Repairs to the damaged fence

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 Tauihu 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 Tauihu.



Kiwi pukupuku | spectators release



KIWI TALK | TAMSIN WARD-SMITH - SAVE THE KIWI

We hosted an exclusive kiwi kōrero with Tamsin from Save the Kiwi while she was down to re-transmitter the 10 male kiwis in the Sanctuary. This was a chance to learn more about the little spotted kiwi recently released into the Sanctuary.

From hearing about the species' history and translocation journey, to holding a kiwi egg, examining radio transmitters, and even smelling kiwi poo. It was an engaging, hands-on session full of curiosity and great questions.

We even learned to distinguish between male and female kiwi calls — a skill our volunteers will take with them around the Sanctuary.

Huge thanks to Save the Kiwi for their support and to every volunteer who joined us. Your commitment to conservation continues to shape the future of the Sanctuary — and we're so grateful.



KIWI UPDATE!!!

The news couldn't be better!

Tamsin and Nadine from "Save the Kiwi" assisted by Sanctuary volunteers have completed a health check on the 10-radio tagged kiwi, remember this is a quarter of the 40 the Sanctuary has in residence.

After 6-weeks in Nelson, they are all rated as being in good condition with weight increases between 20-200 grams. Great news considering that in many other translocations, Kiwi often initially lose weight. A couple have already paired up with a mate, although not always with their Kapiti Island partner. This bonding suggests they are already checking out for territory that suits.

Over the next couple of months, loose monitoring will continue so we can map out the home range each pair decided on.



New transmitter goes on | photo credit: Stefanie Kuenstle

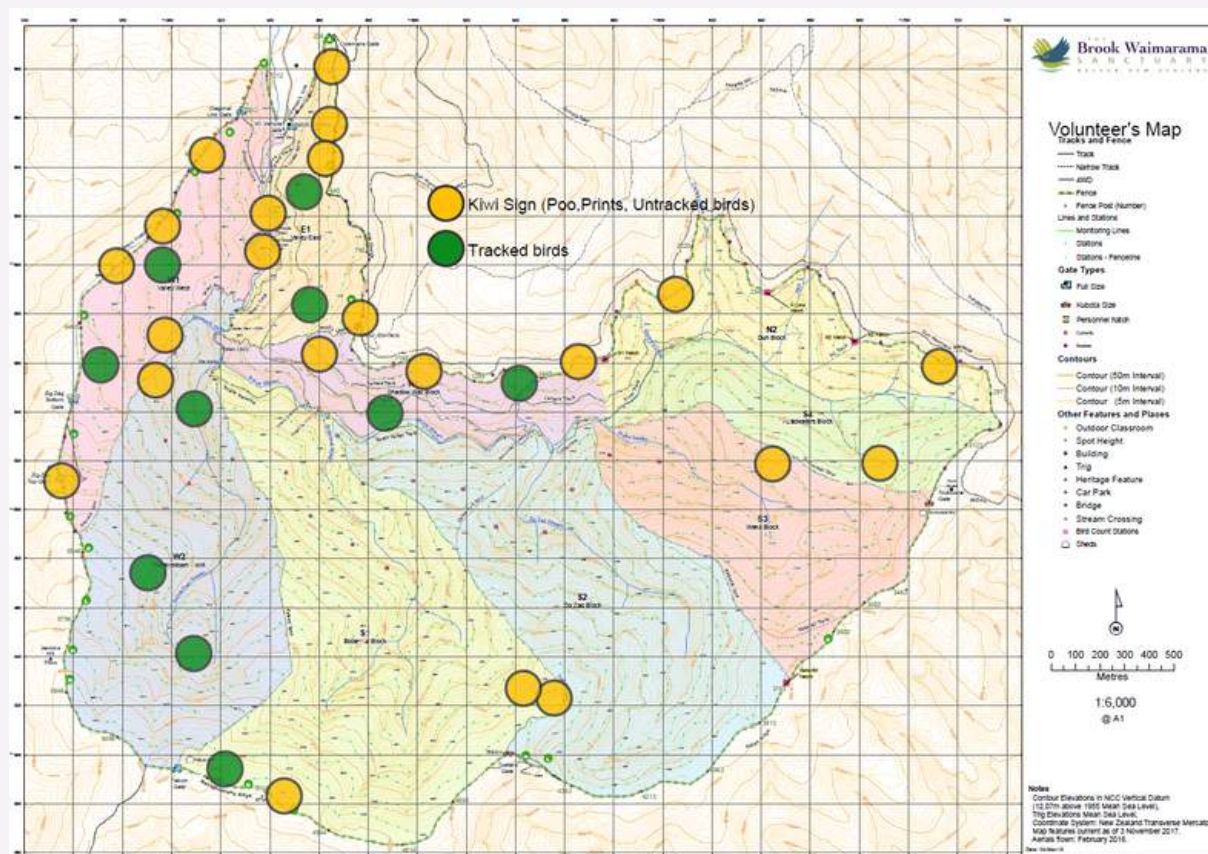


Chelsea holds a Kiwi pukupuku | photo credit: Stefanie Kuenstle

KIWI SIGNS AND TRACKED BIRDS

Evidence Kiwi have spread throughout the territory, top of Tuatara and Falcon Spur, almost at Ferny Flats.

- Kiwi poo on walking tracks, a light-coloured splat with musty smell.
- Footprints in the cat monitoring tunnels along the top fence line.



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.

(left) Whenua Iti group of Gateway students focused on environmental sustainability, from Nayland College, Tapawera High School, Motueka High School, Nelson College, Nelson College for Girls, and Garin College.



(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.



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



credit: [Kākāriki karaka](#), Sean McGrath Jun. 2025

BIRD OF THE YEAR 2025 "KĀKĀRIKI KARAKA"

We've applied to be campaign managers for this year's Bird of the Year — backing the brilliant Kākāriki Karaka with our theme: "Glow Up for the Kākāriki Karaka: Bright, Bold, and Back from the Brink!"

We'll be rallying support and raising awareness for these vibrant little birds — and having a bit of fun along the way. Last year, The Hoiho | Yellow-eyed Penguin took the crown for 2024, could this be the year of the karaka?



TUATARA UPDATE

Over the last few months, further tuatara have been translocated into the Sanctuary, bringing current numbers to 65



NELSON FEATHERS SEAN MCGRATH'S BLOG

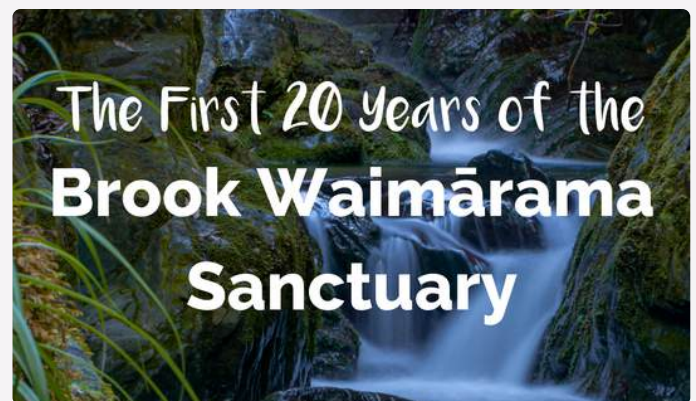
KĀKĀRIKI KARAKA 2025 SURVEY UPDATE – A "QUIET" SUCCESS

This week, 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](#).

SANCTUARY HISTORY

We have new supply of Sanctuary History books, if you haven't yet got yours, these can be purchased through the Sanctuary website, or from the Sanctuary Visitor Centre or the town office.



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 may have the chance to hear the 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:

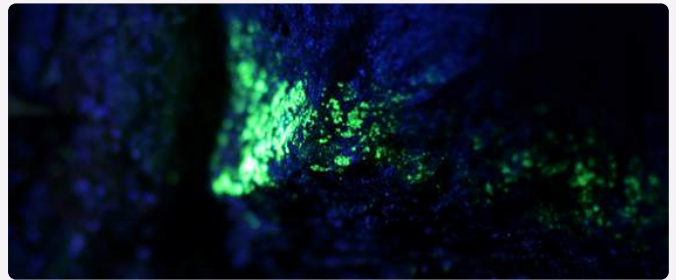
- Discover glowing glowworms nestled in the forest
- Listen for kiwi calls in the silence of the night
- Learn about the Sanctuary's nocturnal wonders from expert guides

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

Tours run throughout July and August
Spaces are limited — bookings essential

Come see what awakens when the sun goes down.

[A Night in the Forest Tour](#)



TOWN OFFICE: NEW LOCATION

The Sanctuary's town office has now relocated to 54 Montgomery Square – formerly the COVID-19 vaccination centre.

PAID CLEANING WORK AVAILABLE

The Trust is looking for a part time cleaner, about 12 hours per week, normal days of work Fri - Mon. This work is primarily morning shifts in the campground, and it also involves some cleaning at the Sanctuary Visitor Centre.

If interested, please contact Tui Fisher, Camp Manager (campmanager@brooksanctuary.org.nz) or 022 552 7637.



THANK YOU TO OUR BUSINESS & INDIVIDUAL SUPPORTERS

Nelson Aero Club



Bowater Motor Group - Kiwi transit van



Virtual Reality - Digital Diligence & Nelson Airport



Theatre Royal Nelson



FREEHOUSE KIWI PUKUPUKU BEER

In true community spirit, 10% of beer sales were donated to the Sanctuary, raising over \$900 to support our work. A massive thanks to The Free House and everyone who raised a glass — your support means the world and highlights the strength of our local community.

We would like to acknowledge and thank the following businesses & individuals who supported the Kiwi campaign;

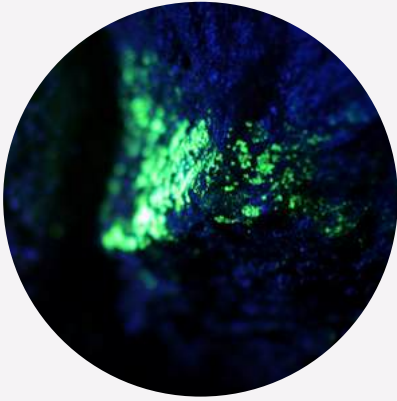
- Save the Kiwi
- Nelson Aero Club
- Nelson Airport
- Digital Diligence Ltd
- Bowater Motor Group
- Rachel Boyack - Labour MP
- The Free House
- Nelson City Council
- Nelson Museum
- Theatre Royal Nelson
- Tahuna Beach
- Ngati Toa
- Ngait Koata
- Nelson Tasman Chamber of Commerce
- Nelson Tasman NZ
- Jens Hansen

The list goes on. Thank you to all the businesses around Nelson region who allowed us to place the "Bringing Kiwi Home" posters and stickers on their windows.



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 events@brooksanctuary.org.nz



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



Violet Coral Fungus
Clavaria zollingeri
Photo credit: Chelsea Haley



Waxgill fungi
Hygrocybe sp
Photo credit: Rebecca Bowater



Amoenoboletus mcrobbii
Photo credit: Rebecca Bowater



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



Waxgill fungi
Giliophorus sp.
Photo credit: Rebecca Bowater



Small Hover Fly
Melanostoma 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

LITTLE SPOTTED KIWI / KIWI PUKUPUKU

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.

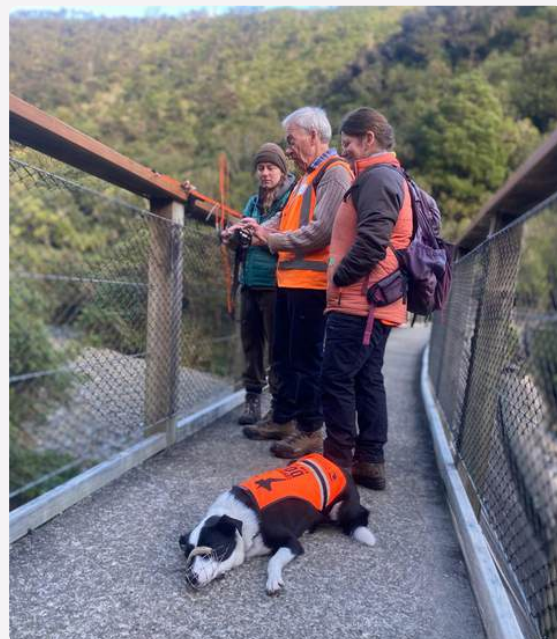
The kiwi that have been released into the Sanctuary were collected from Kapiti Island but are still descended from South Island birds. pukupuku like all kiwi are nocturnal and sleep in a burrow, hollow log, rock crevice or in dense vegetation. They spend their nights hunting for food by tapping their 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.

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.

Continued next page...



New transmitter goes on | photo credit: Stefanie Kuenstle



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



Photo credit: Stefanie Kuenstle

LITTLE SPOTTED KIWI / KIWI PUKUPUKU

Apteryx owenii

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