

FAN-TALES NEWSLETTER ĀPERIRA | APRIL 2026



MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

It's been a vibrant and rewarding period for the Sanctuary, with much to celebrate and reflect on.

Over the summer season, the Sanctuary has been full of life — from the arrival of three kākā to a noticeable increase in visitor numbers and strong community engagement through events. These moments highlight the deep and growing connection people have with this special place.

Our recent Big Green Day Out / Open Days were a standout success, welcoming more than 1,700 visitors for a weekend of free activities and exploration. We extend our sincere thanks to our food vendors, MoreFM, community partners including Natureland and Nelson City Council, Eve Newton for leading our Junior Ranger activities, and of course our dedicated staff and volunteers who made the event possible.

We were also honoured to host Their Excellencies, Dame Cindy and Dr Richard Davies. Their visit was a meaningful acknowledgement of the commitment shown by our volunteers and the generosity of our wider community in protecting native species and preserving our natural heritage.

Looking ahead, safeguarding and enhancing the Sanctuary remains a key priority. However, this important work comes with increasing costs, and in the current global climate, the year ahead will be challenging. We are deeply grateful for the continued support and donations that enable us to carry this work forward.

We would like to extend a special thank you to Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō and Natureland for their support in the reintroduction of kākā. We look forward to welcoming more of these remarkable birds in the months ahead.

We are proud to be the largest pest-free Sanctuary in the South Island, and uniquely, the only fenced beech forest Sanctuary — part of a critical ecological corridor spanning the length of the island.

Our guided night tours have seen remarkable growth, increasing by over 560%, with kiwi pukupuku a particular highlight. Meanwhile, our Junior Ranger programme continues to flourish, now with more than 80 young members actively involved.

Thank you for being part of our journey. We look forward to welcoming you to the Sanctuary soon.



News & Updates

Kākāriki karaka - update from Isaacs

This is definitely cuteness overload! You might remember from our last newsletter the exciting milestone of five kākāriki karaka eggs being collected from the Sanctuary and transferred to Isaac's Conservation and Wildlife Trust in Christchurch to help boost population numbers and genetic diversity within the captive breeding programme.

We're delighted to share an update from the team at Isaac's—three of the five eggs have successfully developed, with two males and one female now due to fledge any time soon.

Photo by Cage Cardon - Isaac's Conservation & Wildlife Trust



Governor General visit to the Sanctuary

It was a privilege to host Their Excellencies, Dame Cindy and Dr Richard Davies, at the Sanctuary, where we were proud to showcase our achievements and highlight the important role we play in conservation and providing predator-free safe havens for New Zealand's native species.

Their Excellencies were even treated to wonderful views of kākā from the aviary screening. Her Excellency expressed her sincere appreciation for the work we do, along with the incredible support of our dedicated volunteers.



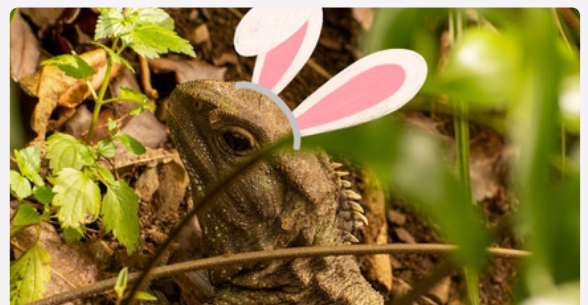
Easter Holidays

Looking for something to do over the Easter break? We've got you sorted.

We'll be open all Easter weekend from 9am–5pm, and on Easter Monday from 10am–4pm.

Bring the whānau along to enjoy the beautiful surroundings — and don't miss our kids' Easter scavenger hunt, a fun activity to keep the little ones entertained.

It's a great chance to get outdoors, explore nature, and celebrate Easter with us.



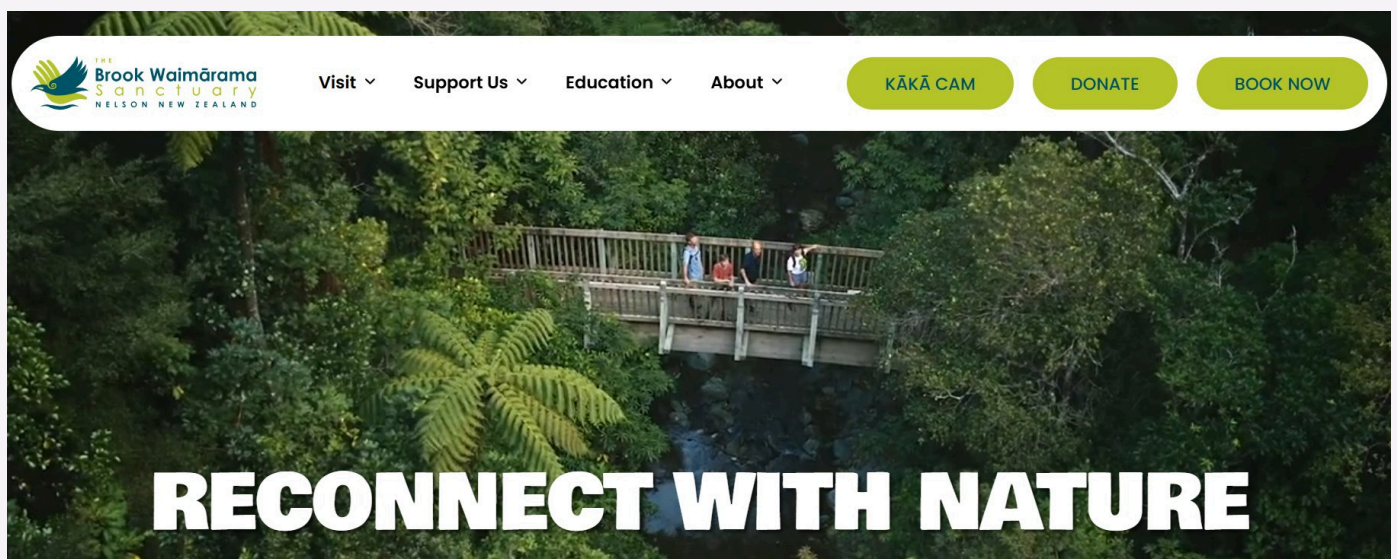
Refreshed Website

Thanks to Charlie and his team over at the [SunRoom - web design studio](#) for our new refreshed website, it has been a long time in the making to give our Sanctuary website a clean and modern look.

Under the bonnet of our refreshed website, is a change of CRM (customer relationship management) system. Since 2019 we've used Infoodle as our CRM solution, we're now transitioning to an entirely different system called ZOHO.

Thanks to the team over at [Digital Diligence Ltd](#), they have been supporting us during this transition. We're confident that over time we will reap substantial benefits from this move, especially as a result of automating of many processes that are currently very manual and time consuming, we also expect to trim some expenditure from our annual operating costs.

Having said that, we're realistic and acknowledge that there may well be initial teething problems – we ask for patience and understanding as we come to grips with ZOHO and a very sharp learning curve! If you find something on the refreshed website that isn't working as you think it should, then please let us know by emailing info@brooksanctuary.org.nz



Natureland Wildlife Trust proud to support

Natureland Wildlife Trust is proud to be supporting the Brook Waimārama Sanctuary with the arrival of their first group of kākā. These birds are an important step toward establishing a wild population within the sanctuary and restoring this iconic native parrot to the Nelson region.

Natureland has been part of the Department of Conservation's kākā captive breeding programme for more than 10 years, developing significant expertise in the husbandry and care of these intelligent native parrots. In the lead-up to the birds arriving, Natureland staff worked closely with project partners to help prepare for their care.



Sanctuary Initiatives

The latest updates



Cushions for Conservation

Pam Pope, a long-serving Sanctuary volunteer, has provided incredible support over the years. She is especially known for her very popular handmade cushions (not to mention wearing our dress-up Moa), available for purchase in the Visitor Centre. These donated items help raise funds for the Sanctuary, with all proceeds going directly toward its work.

Pam has made more than 280 cushions, raising over \$13,000 to date. We are extremely grateful for her dedication and generosity—thank you, Pam, for your valued support.



Eugy - Tuatara

We're thrilled to be partnering with EUGY by Dodoland. Through their Habitat for Species Protection programme, Dodoland donates 10% of net sales profits of Eugy tuatara to the Sanctuary to support our conservation work.

We're excited to share that, thanks to the fantastic success of their tuatara 3D animal puzzle, \$2,000 has been donated to the Sanctuary.

EUGY puzzles are sustainable, 3D animal models made from recyclable cardboard, designed to spark curiosity and foster a deeper connection with nature. Together, we're helping protect the real tuatara and support the restoration of thriving habitats for native wildlife.





Silent Auction

What an amazing turn-out at our Big Green Day out / Open Days. Over 1700 visited the Sanctuary during the weekend.

Our Silent Auction has raised over \$3,400 thanks to Tui & Kim (Our Campground Managers of the Brook Valley Holiday Reserve) who volunteered their time to seek business support with goodies to go towards our Silent Auction.

A very grateful thank you to all the businesses that provided items - we could have not done this without you.

- Booster Wine Group Spiny Back Wine
- Pic's Peanut Butter
- Tides Hotel & Restaurant
- Heartland Chips
- Aliment Brewing
- Huski NZ
- Nelson Classic Car
- Real Meals
- Whittaker's Chocolate
- Abel Tasman Aqua Taxi
- The Smoke House
- Prince Albert
- Proper Crips
- Lambrettas Cafe
- Little Beauties
- The Styx
- 2B Natural Insect Repellent
- Living Light Candles
- Blacks Fasteners
- Georgia Rose Beauty Boutique
- Advance Clean
- Abel Tasman Honey
- Noel Leeming
- Richard Dooley - Local artist
- Pestells
- Bluebridge Ferry
- The Crafty Weka Bar
- Makikihi Fries
- Antics Marketing
- Waimea Nurseries
- Safe Bottles NZ
- Talleys
- Nelson Tasman Chamber of Commerce



Upcoming Community Events

Keep up to date with local events around the region

TUKU 2026 | 21 March - 3 May

Conservation Week | 20 - 26 April



Summer Photography Competition - Winners!

Summer Photography Competition Winners

- Amateur Winner: Diane Chandler — the tallest moss in the world, *Dawsonia superba*
- Junior Winner: Sam Moynan — a beautiful image of a *miromiro* tomtit

A huge thank you to everyone who entered. We received 21 stunning photos from 8 photographers and loved seeing the Sanctuary through your lenses.

Prize packs include:

Amateur: A family ticket to a guided night tour & A feature in our newsletter and on social media

Junior: An instant camera & A feature in our newsletter and on social media

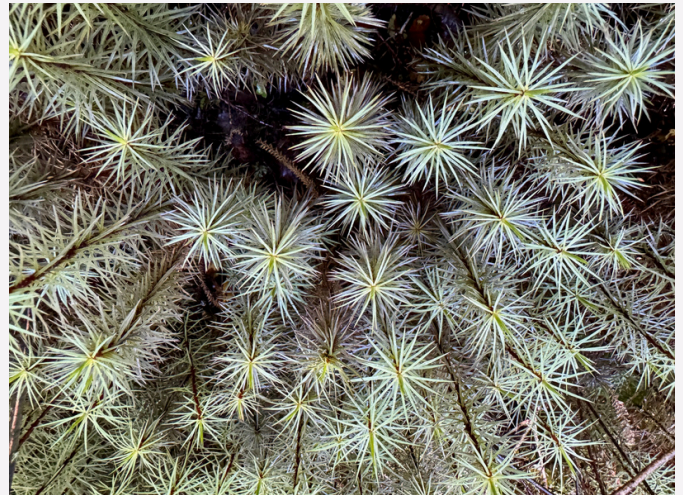
Prints of both winning images will also be displayed at the Visitor Centre. [Nelson City Framers & The Gallery](#) will be producing these beautiful images as prints, to be awarded to Diane and Sam.

Now it's your turn! Entries for the [Autumn Photography Competition](#) are open from 1 March - 31 May 2026! head out on the tracks, keep an eye out for those special ngahere moments, watch for fungi, and start snapping — we can't wait to see what you capture.

Discover the Ngahere After Dark

Experience the magic of the forest on a guided night tour. After a brief introduction at the Visitor Centre, head into the ngahere with our knowledgeable guides as it comes alive after sunset. Listen for ruru and kiwi pukupuku, and take in the soft glow of resident glowworms beneath towering trees. All proceeds support the Sanctuary's vital conservation work.

We can also accommodate large group bookings — please get in touch to discuss options.



Amateur Winner: Diane Chandler | Tallest Moss in the world -



Junior Winner: Sam Maynon | Tomtit





Kaitiaki (Guardian) Membership

Our Kaitiaki (Guardian) membership (formerly the Brook Business Club) is the ideal sponsorship for businesses of any size — \$1,000 per year or \$100 per month.

Kaitiaki receive:

- Opportunity for collaborative opportunities through social media
- Acknowledgment on the Brook Sanctuary website with a hyperlink to your website
- Display the Sanctuary logo on your website or marketing materials
- Add a dedicated partnership page on your website
- 5 individual or 2 family memberships
- 10 general admission passes to share,
- 20% off tours for your team or clients

Or contact Chris directly - chris.mccormack@brooksanctuary.org.nz

Peanut Butter and Conservation

Thanks to the team at Pic's Peanut Butter, who have been a long-time supporter of the Sanctuary: Heres what they have to say.

At Pic's Peanut Butter, sustainability is at the heart of what we do, which includes making sure that nothing good goes to waste.

But, every now and then, we end up with a batch of peanut butter that's not quite up to our "really good" standard. Rather than letting perfectly good peanuts go to waste, we give this perfectly imperfect peanut butter a second life.

That's where legends like the Brook Waimārama Sanctuary come in.

There's a long-standing kiwi rumour that pests have a particular soft spot for Pic's Peanut Butter (we'll take that as a compliment), which makes it a handy tool for conservation work. So we're proud to further support the Brook Waimārama team by donating peanut butter to help with their predator control efforts. It's a small way we can contribute to the incredible work happening right here in Whakatū Nelson – protecting native wildlife and restoring this special place for future generations.

Keep up the amazing work, team, we're right behind you.



SUPPORTERS BOARD

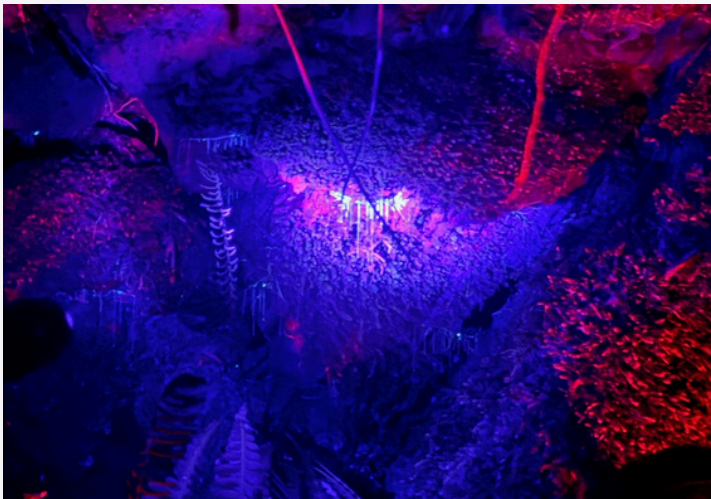


Thanks to MD Outdoors & Patagonia!

MD Outdoors have made a donation of \$1,798 to support the Sanctuary recently. MD Outdoors is a small independent outdoor shop in Nelson. If you haven't been yet, you definitely should pop in, they have awesome outdoor brands, gear hire and advice for getting you outside.

Patagonia is one of their top brands, with a big range of apparel. Wholesalers of Patagonia like MD Outdoors, get to choose a charity to benefit from the Patagonia Impact Incentive programme, where a donation of their profits go to environmental charities around the world. Big thank you to MD Outdoors for choosing us for their donation! The girls at MD Outdoors also sorted us out with torches for our night tours and we took them on a tour to say thanks.

"We absolutely loved our night tour!. The guides were so lovely, passionate about what do, we learnt so much about conservation here in Nelson in the Sanctuary, the wildlife here, bugs and creepy crawlies! The glow worms were awesome to see lit up with UV lights too – a perfect family friendly trip. The absolute highlight had to be hearing kiwi throughout the tour, and then seeing one right at the end – such a treat! Big thank you for your amazing work!"



Thank you to our Business Supporters

We're grateful to our Business Club members for their ongoing support of the Sanctuary. Their contributions help us protect native species, maintain our unique environment, and welcome visitors to experience the ngahere.

You can learn more about some of our Business Club supporters here:
www.brooksanctuary.org.nz/support-us/sponsors



Rebuilding After the Storm

In May 2025, an extraordinary burst of rain hit the Sanctuary—so intense that it overwhelmed both the rain gauge at Third House and the river flow meter in the Brook. With both instruments knocked out, the true scale of the downpour remains unknown.

What is certain, however, is the extent of the damage it caused.

Across the Sanctuary, landslips and flooding left their mark. A section of the popular loop track was destroyed, while a culvert along the fenceline was buried beneath rock. At Totara Crossing, a major slip disrupted the visitor track, and large trees were brought down throughout the area. Stormwater damage was widespread, particularly along the fenceline track. Most seriously, a significant slip near Carters Creek undermined part of the predator-proof fence.

The response from supporters was immediate and inspiring. Within just a few days, more than \$100,000 was raised to fund repairs. Over the past year, those funds—combined with an enormous volunteer effort—have enabled the Sanctuary to recover. Thanks to this collective work, repairs are set to be completed this month, almost exactly one year after the storm struck.

Key Repairs

Strengthening the Carters Creek fenceline

The most complex repair took place near Carters Creek, where the fence had been undermined. Over six months, a dedicated team of volunteers—working alongside staff and interns—stabilised the slope, rebuilt the internal track, and upgraded stormwater systems to prevent future slips. Completing this work with contractors alone would likely have consumed most of the recovery fund.

Restoring the loop track

The Sanctuary's main visitor track was quickly brought back into use. A retaining wall was constructed and the damaged section rebuilt, ensuring safe access for visitors.

Securing Totara Crossing

A geotechnical assessment guided repairs at Totara Crossing. Loose rock was removed, a new track was cut, and the area is now regularly monitored for movement. As a precaution, the track will be closed during periods of heavy rainfall.



Upgrading the fenceline track

Contractors recently completed repairs along the vehicle track that runs around the outside of the fence. The improvements have made the track smoother and safer, while also redirecting stormwater away from vulnerable areas. New drainage pipes have been installed in sections prone to washouts, with the Sanctuary's asset team contributing further cost savings by installing stormwater structures and fabricating steel pest-proof grilles.

One year on, the Sanctuary has not only repaired the damage but strengthened its resilience against future storms. This achievement stands as a testament to the dedication of volunteers, interns, staff, and the wider community—whose support made recovery possible.



Become a Sanctuary Volunteer!

The Sanctuary is only possible thanks to the dedication and care of our 300-strong community of volunteers. Each year, they contribute over 20,000 hours, and we simply couldn't do it without them—they are the backbone of everything we achieve.

We are currently looking for volunteers to help in the following areas:

- Asset Management
- Fish Support
- Planting and Gardening
- Track Maintenance
- Weeding
- Events & Promotion
- Tour Guiding
- Visitor Centre Hosting

If any of these opportunities sound like a good fit for you, we'd love to hear from you. Please get in touch to show your interest.



Recent snaps in the Sanctuary



Stick insect - plenty around the Sanctuary



Kererū are quite often seen around the Sanctuary.



Crafty creatures from our Junior Ranger workshop



Crafty creatures from our Junior Ranger workshop



Visitors on our Open Day - tuatara talk



Tuatara



31 March 2026 - donation receipts

Donation statements have been now been issued to all our regular (recurring) donors for their donations received in the 2025/26 tax year ending 31 March.

If you made a donation to the Sanctuary during the tax year just ended, and you haven't received a donation receipt, or you've mislaid it, please email nick.tilly@brooksanctuary.org.nz.

Ideally, please provide the date you made your donation and the amount – this will speed up issuing receipts. All donations over \$5 can be claimed as tax-deductible; note, membership fees and sponsored fence posts cannot be claimed as tax-deductible donations.

Washing Machine Needed

We're currently seeking support to secure a washing machine for the Sanctuary. With muddy field gear and general cleaning, a reliable machine would make a real difference to our day-to-day operations.

If you have a spare washing machine in good working order that you'd be willing to gift – or can help us source one – we would be incredibly grateful. Thank you for supporting the practical needs that help keep the Sanctuary running smoothly. Please email us if you are able to support info@brooksanctuary.org.nz



Small Office Space available

We have a small office space available for rent at our Sanctuary Town Office – ideal for a small team or individual workspace. For enquiries or to arrange a viewing, please contact [Nick](mailto:nick.tilly@brooksanctuary.org.nz) - nick.tilly@brooksanctuary.org.nz

Become a Sanctuary Member

Want to enjoy the benefits of being part of the Sanctuary community? Becoming a member is a great way to support our conservation work and stay connected with everything happening here.

Membership options:

- \$65 – Individual
- \$130 – Household/Family
- \$2,000 – Lifetime (Individual)

You can renew or join via our website, or through online banking (account details are available on the website). Your membership directly supports the ongoing protection and restoration of the Sanctuary.





Social Media Highlights

What's been happening online:

Kākā - Live Cam

There's something quietly magical happening in the heart of the forest — and you can watch it unfold live.

The Brook Sanctuary kākā cam offers a rare window into the daily lives of one of Aotearoa's most charismatic native parrots. From playful squabbles to tender feeding moments.

Tuning in is more than just a relaxing break in your day. It's a chance to connect with conservation in action, to witness the success of sanctuary efforts, and to feel a little closer to New Zealand's unique wildlife — wherever you are.

Take a moment, click on the cam, and let the forest come to you. You might arrive for a quick look, but don't be surprised if you stay a while.



Support the future of the Sanctuary

Anyone who needs a receipt to claim their donation rebate from IRD, but hasn't received one from us should contact Nick Tilly (nick.tilly@brooksanctuary.org.nz), ideally with the date and amount of your donation.

(Please note, membership payments are not tax-deductible and cannot be claimed as donations).

The Brook Waimārama Sanctuary Trust

NBS: 03-1354-0561993-00

Please include your member ID as the reference.



brooksanctuary.org.nz
info@brooksanctuary.org.nz