

FAN-TALES NEWSLETTER HERETURIKŌKĀ | AUGUST 2026



MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

A walk along the Valley Track over the weekend was a great reminder of the importance of taking time for our own wellbeing, while also appreciating just how stunning our Sanctuary forest truly is. Every visit reinforces why protecting this special place matters so much.

Many of you will have seen recent media coverage about HPAI H5N1 bird flu. I want to reassure our community that Brook Waimārama Sanctuary is well prepared, with proactive biosecurity measures in place. We continue to work closely with the appropriate agencies, and at this stage there is no cause for concern.

It's also been exciting to celebrate the launch of Aliment Brewing's Waimārama Wildling Ale, with the first pour taking place on 18 July. A huge thank you to the team at Aliment Brewing and Froth Technologies for supporting the Sanctuary and helping raise awareness for conservation in such a unique way.

We were also delighted to host two groups from Big Brothers Big Sisters on our Night Guided Tours. Seeing young people experience the magic of the Sanctuary after dark was a real highlight.

And finally, a very exciting surprise! Thanks to our Sanctuary Ranger, Chelsea, we captured incredible footage of a kiwi pukupuku caught in the act. Could kiwi chicks be on the way? I'm feeling very confident, and we look forward to sharing more as the season unfolds.

Thank you for being part of our journey and for helping protect this remarkable place for future generations.

Ngā mihi nui,
Chris McCormack
Brook Waimārama Sanctuary Trust



RECONNECT WITH NATURE



News & Updates

Information on H5 bird flu

H5 bird flu (HPAI H5N1) Avian Influenza was recently been detected in Wellington, and you might wonder what you can do to keep our manu safe.

What best to do if you find sick or dead birds?

Always stay away from sick or dead birds,

Outside the Sanctuary, if you find more than three wild, sick or dead birds inform MPI on 0800 80 99 66,

Inside the Sanctuary, inform a staff member at the Visitor Centre. If you could show us a video or photo and describe the location where the bird was found that would be most helpful.

Please don't bring sick or injured wildlife to the Sanctuary.

Visitors are encouraged to:

- Stay on designated tracks.
- Avoid visiting if they have been in recent contact with H5N1
- Avoid touching or handling sick or dead birds.
- Follow all signage and staff instructions.
- Practise good hygiene, including cleaning footwear before entering and leaving the Sanctuary where appropriate.

The Sanctuary will continue rely on the advice from DOC, MPI and Biosecurity NZ to ensure the latest information and best practice measures are implemented.

Brook Waimārama Sanctuary encourages anyone who observes sick, injured or dead wild birds to avoid contact and report them through the appropriate MPI reporting channels.

As New Zealand prepares for the possibility of HPAI H5N1 arriving, Brook Waimārama Sanctuary remains committed to protecting one of the country's most important conservation sites and ensuring future generations can continue to experience thriving native wildlife.



Photo credit Sean McGrath
Kākāriki karaka/ orange-fronted parakeet



Kākā - Photo credit: Nancy Holden

Inside the sanctuary:

If you see a sick, injured or dead bird, please let our team know ASAP, including the location and any info you can provide about the species.

Outside the sanctuary:

If you find a sick or injured native bird, contact DOC on 0800 DOC HOT.

If you see three or more sick or dead wild birds in a group, please report it to MPI's Pest and Disease hotline – 0800 80 99 66.

Sanctuary Initiatives

The latest updates



100 Junior Rangers and Growing!



Our Junior Ranger Programme has reached an exciting milestone, with more than 100 Junior Rangers now signed up!

We're also launching our new Welcome Junior Rangers Booklet. This fun activity booklet encourages children to explore the Sanctuary, learn about conservation, and track their progress as they complete adventures and activities.

With every 10 activities completed, Junior Rangers will unlock the next achievement level on their journey to becoming a Kiwi Kaitiaki.

We're excited to see our next generation of conservation champions continue to grow!

Find out more!

www.brooksanctuary.org.nz/junior-ranger

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.

Find out more!

www.brooksanctuary.org.nz/visit

Photography Competition Winners!



We're excited to announce the winners of our Autumn Photography Competition:

Amateur Winner: Paul Gardner — a stunning shot of a Silvereye, Tauhou (left)

Junior Winner: Matti Raven — a beautiful image of fungi (right)

A huge thank you to everyone who entered. We received 26 stunning photos from 6 photographers and loved seeing the Sanctuary through your lenses.

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 Paul and Matti.

Now it's your turn! Entries for the Winter Photography Competition are still open until 31 August 2026!

Foundation Trust

The Brook Waimārama Sanctuary Foundation Trust exists to act as the Sanctuary's philanthropic and investment arm, receiving, protecting, and growing gifts, bequests, and endowments.

Its purpose is to:

- Build a significant capital fund that supports long-term sustainability.
- Provide an independent, trusted avenue for donors to make impactful contributions.
- Ensure funds are responsibly invested, transparent, and clearly separated from operational funding.
- Generate income for annual Sanctuary operations and, when appropriate, capital for major projects.

The mission of the Foundation is to create a long term, reliable funding stream solely for the benefit of the Sanctuary and its conservation vision. More information below;

www.brooksanctuary.org.nz/support-us/foundation-bequests



Kalyan Yoga: in the Sanctuary



Gather at The Beech Glade classroom, within the beautiful Brook Waimārama Sanctuary, for a gentle and grounding hour of guided meditation in nature.

This session weaves together simple seated and walking practices designed to help focus and quieten the mind, supporting a deeper experience of presence and awareness. Surrounded by the sounds and stillness of the natural world, you'll be invited to slow down, reconnect, and come home to Presence.

When: 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month, next session 12th & 26th July | 9:00–10:00am

Where: Meet at The Glade (please arrive 15 mins early to allow time to walk in)

Entry & Koha: \$5–\$10 koha donation, paid in cash directly to the meditation teacher

Sanctuary Members: Free entry as part of your annual membership benefits

Non-Members: Early bird special: \$10 per adult

Bookings: Not required, just turn up to the session.

Contact: namaste@kalyanyoga.com

Support the future of the Sanctuary

The return of kiwi and other threatened species to the Sanctuary is only possible because of the ongoing support of our community. Every donation helps protect not only kiwi, but many other native species that call the Sanctuary home.

Your support contributes to vital pest control, habitat restoration, species monitoring, and education programmes that ensure future generations can experience thriving native wildlife in Nelson.

Whether large or small, every contribution makes a real difference. By donating you are helping create a safer future for kiwi, tuatara, native birds, insects, and the unique forest ecosystems they depend on.

Thank you for standing with us and helping nature flourish.

DONATE TODAY: www.brooksanctuary.org.nz/support-us/donate



Thank you to our Business Supporters

We're grateful to our Business Club & Kaitiaki 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 supporters here:

Find out more: www.brooksanctuary.org.nz/support-us/sponsors



Waimārama Wilding Ale

A special thanks to the team at Aliment Brewing—owners Jason and Monica—who have partnered with Froth Technologies in support of the Sanctuary with their new brew, Waimārama Wilding Ale.

Launched on 18 July, the beer is now available on shelves and on tap at selected locations around the country - included The Freehouse Pub. Keep an eye out for a pint and help support conservation!

NBS - Community

Did you know that the more people who bank with NBS, the more NBS can give back to the community and support organisations just like ours?

We're proud to be sponsored by NBS and be part of giving back to our local community.

NBS is also featuring the Sanctuary in their recent campaign.

NBS is not a registered bank.

www.nbs.co.nz





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 + gst.

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

Contact Chris directly - chris.mccormack@brooksanctuary.org.nz

Strategic Supporters



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai



NBS

Community
We believe. We invest.



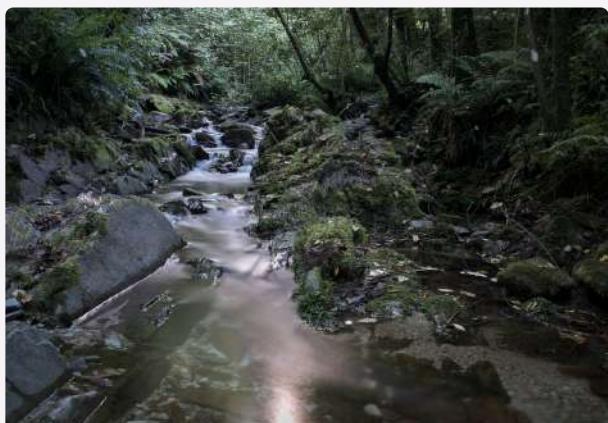
Recent snaps in the Sanctuary



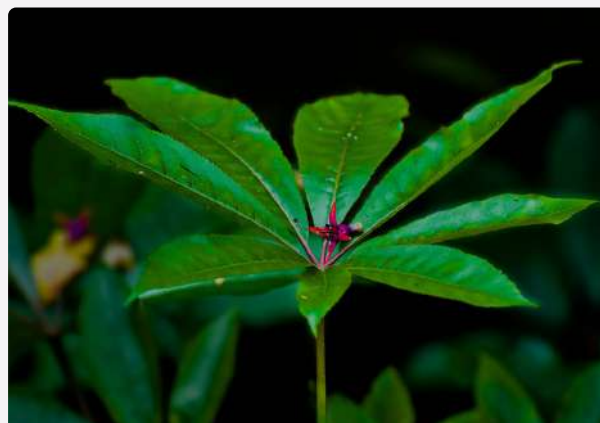
Sarah Turner - Adult Amateur Photographer



Sarah Edgley - Adult Amateur Photographer



Simon Shaw - Adult Amateur Photographer



Helen Power - Adult Amateur Photographer



Bring the Sanctuary to Your Community

Would your community group, business, retirement village, or organisation like to learn more about Brook Waimārama Sanctuary?

Our team is available to present engaging talks on the Sanctuary's conservation work, native wildlife, species reintroductions, and the positive impact being made to protect our unique natural environment. Whether it's a club meeting, workplace, or community event, we'd love to share our story and answer your questions.

If you're interested in hosting a Brook Waimārama Sanctuary talk, please get in touch with us at info@brooksanctuary.org.nz.



Forest and Bird Talk

Forest and Bird Talk by Naomi Arnold "Hope for the underbirds - saving the New Zealand dotterels on Rakiura". Wednesday 12th August, 7.30pm, Tāhunanui School Hall, 69 Muritai St, Nelson.

Synopsis: Earlier this year, Nelson journalist Naomi Arnold joined a DOC team working to reverse the fortunes of southern New Zealand dotterels on Rakiura, writing a recent cover story for New Zealand Geographic magazine. Join Naomi to discuss the situation and find out the latest news on the dotterels' chances for survival.

Membership Renewal notices

Unfortunately, we've had an unexpected hiccup in the implementation of our new database and the issuing of membership renewal notices. Earlier this week we've discovered that our new system (was previously) issuing membership renewal notices but then it stopped doing so as an automation process was changed - this had the unintended consequence of stopping renewal reminders being sent out. We're working to fix this automation, and we'll be issuing reminder notices (within the coming week) for all subscription holders dating back to November 2025.

In the meantime, if you're know for certain that your membership has lapsed, you can renew it by using this link: www.brooksanctuary.org.nz/support-us/renew-your-sanctuary-subscription

Become A Sanctaury Member



Why Become a Member?

Becoming a member of the Brook Waimārama Sanctuary means you're directly supporting the protection and restoration of native wildlife while enjoying year-round access to one of the South Island's most unique conservation landscapes.

Membership benefits include:

- Unlimited Sanctuary entry — visit as often as you like to walk, explore, and reconnect with nature - during our opening hours
- Priority access to events and experiences — from guided tours to seasonal activities and expert talks.
- Monthly Fan Tales newsletter – our avidly read monthly newsletter sent out to over 5000 people all over the world
- Support for conservation action — your membership funds weed and pest control, habitat restoration, and species reintroduction programs.
- Connection to the Sanctuary community — invitations to member briefings, behind-the-scenes updates, and impact reports.

Becoming a member is more than a ticket — it's a commitment to sustaining native forest, wildlife, and a legacy that future generations can enjoy.



Social Media Highlights

What's been happening online:

Keep up to date on Socials

Keep up to date on our socials for the latest news, updates, and behind-the-scenes content.

Follow us to stay connected and never miss an announcement.



City Office | 54 Montgomery Square, Nelson | 03 546 2422
Visitor Centre - Sanctuary Entrance | 651 Brook Street | 03 539 4920
Postal Address | PO Box 744, Nelson 7040
www.brooksanctuary.org.nz

Kiwi Breeding Season is Underway

It's one of the most exciting times of the year for our team – kiwi breeding season has begun!

Recently, our team captured this special moment of a kiwi pukupuku mating pair, a wonderful sign that the birds have settled well into their new home at the Sanctuary.

Since the reintroduction of 41 kiwi pukupuku in 2025, we've already celebrated the incredible milestone of kiwi chicks hatching in less than 12 months of their arrival. Seeing the birds now entering another breeding season is an exciting reminder that this population is beginning to establish itself.

Watch the video on our Facebook Page