

Brook Waimārama Sanctuary

enriching our community



Our Vision 2020 to 2035

As we move from the first 15 years of establishing the Sanctuary into the next 15-year phase of developing the ecosystem, our focus is readjusting while still being true to the Sanctuary's purpose as stated in the BWS Trust's Charitable Deed 2004.

Our vision

To be an eco-sanctuary nationally recognised for its exemplary conservation practices, where wildlife, education, and research flourish.

Our mission for next 15 years

To restore a predator-free mature native forest, enabling people to engage with the natural world in a way that promotes environmental responsibility and our community's health and wellbeing, and contributes to the recovery of our local and national ecosystems.

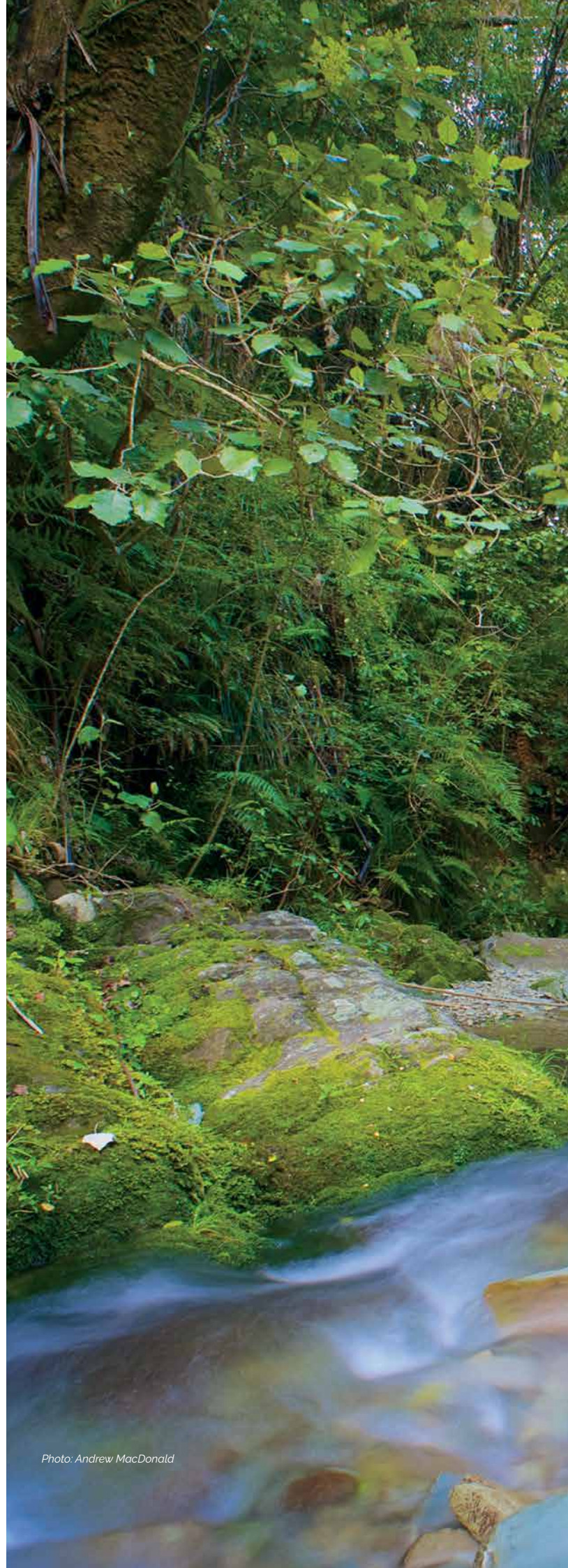


Photo: Andrew MacDonald



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Haere mai

Ngaro reoreo tangata, kīkī e manu
No human voices, only the twittering of birds

Connecting with the natural world helps us understand our environmental responsibility, the importance of a harmonious ecosystem on our mental and physical well-being, and how we might contribute to its restoration.

Today, the Brook Waimārama Sanctuary is the largest fenced haven for endangered plants and animals in the South Island, and the second largest in the country. The Sanctuary's native wildlife is noticeably flourishing within the fence as well as extending out into the daily lives of neighbours.

Tomorrow, the Sanctuary will be an important contributor to, and example of, conservation collaboration and innovation and feeding a spread of our native species far beyond the fence. Abundant with native species that will both delight and surprise, visitors will be able to immerse themselves in the beauty of New Zealand native bush, breathe deeply, and truly appreciate our sense of place and mauri (life force).

During this stage of our journey our focus is on developing a firm foundation from which we can thrive and enrich the future.



Waimārama: while the word waimārama does not have a direct translation, 'wai' means water and 'mārama' means moon so it possibly comes from observing the moon reflecting on the water, or it may refer to 'clear water'.



Why we are doing this

Conservation is our reason for being – to preserve and restore a sustainable natural habitat

We are creating:

- A forest alive with birdsong, crawling with reptiles and insects, and enjoyed by all in the Nelson Tasman region, by restoring to as natural a state as possible a functioning ecosystem in the Brook catchment, enabling a halo effect into the wider community
- An accessible and inspiring wildlife experience only a few kilometres from Nelson's CBD that will be a major visitor attraction bringing significant resources into the region
- A place where we are able to reintroduce lost species and establish new populations of nationally endangered species
- A place where anyone can play a practical role in safeguarding our natural heritage
- A major resource for education and research as well as developing employment and training opportunities.

Many of New Zealand's species are found nowhere else on Earth. Having evolved in isolation they are vulnerable to introduced predators such as rats, stoats, cats and possums. Introduced understory browsers such as goats and deer are also pests as they remove food and protective habitat.

Sadly, New Zealand has the highest rate of threatened species in the world. Around 81% of our birds, 88% of our reptiles and 72% of our freshwater fish are endangered (an estimated 2,800 NZ native species are either threatened or endangered) leading the NZ government to establish Predator Free 2050 in 2016.

Fenced sanctuaries give us a fighting chance to restore the eco-system. A dramatic change in the Sanctuary since the removal of pests is the regrowth of the understory with happy flow on effects for everything from invertebrates to birds and reptiles.

The initial capital investment in our 14.4km fence build was significant; however, it is balanced by substantially lower ongoing costs in comparison to alternative, significantly less effective, pest control strategies. Once the fence was constructed all pests were removed from within the site. Biosecurity, however, continues to be a 24/7 activity because pests can still get in from time to time: perhaps through a rotten tree root tunnel, dropped in by a bird of prey, through the overflow gates on the dam or via a tree that has fallen on the fence.

The Sanctuary's best-practice biosecurity plan provides for coordinated responses to incursions and fence breaches.

Reintroducing lost species is important but it is just as vital to ensure vulnerable species already present in the Sanctuary return to healthy numbers, such as titipounamu (riflemen), toutouwai (robins), miromiro (tomtits), geckos (including the endangered Nelson Green Gecko) and skinks.



NELSON
CITY

MAITAI AND RODING
CONSERVATION
RESERVES

HALO EFFECT

Success means the Sanctuary will be the catalyst for a halo effect, with the endangered populations within the Sanctuary eventually overflowing into our backyards and other parts of New Zealand.

MT RICHMOND FOREST PARK





Our place

Conservation of our ecosystem is a vital part of the Nelson Tasman region's identity

The Sanctuary is celebrated as an integral part of our Smart Little City in Nelson, and the extraordinary region of Nelson Tasman. Our wildlife sanctuary is hidden away but still close to Nelson City's centre, making it easy for people to enjoy their natural heritage.

The 690 ha Brook Waimārama Sanctuary is surrounded by hundreds of thousands of hectares of continuous and protected native forest. This includes the directly adjacent Nelson City Council's Maitai and Roding Conservation Reserves as well as Department of Conservation-administered public conservation estate including the 166,000 ha Mt Richmond Forest Park. The elevation of the site ranges from 100m to 850m and is large enough to engage people of all ages and interests in a variety of conservation opportunities.

Many native birds already call the Sanctuary home and their song is increasing. These include pīwakawaka (fantail), tuī, miromiro (tomtit), tauhou (silveryeye), ruru (morepork), and the precious kererū (New Zealand wood pigeon), kārearea (NZ Falcon), titipounamu (rifleman), pīpīpi (brown creeper) and toutouwai (South Island robin).

Through our reintroduction plan developed with iwi and DOC, species such as kiwi, kākārīki, tīeke (saddleback), kākā and tuatara will reappear.

The Sanctuary's success as an ideal habitat can partly be attributed to the large mature beech forest (featuring individual trees estimated to be around 400 years old), a suitable environment for many native species including kiwi, kaka, kakariki and tīeke. The Brook Waimārama Sanctuary is the only fenced beech forest in New Zealand.

As an important regional visitors' experience people can:

- Learn about our biodiversity and ecosystem
- Enjoy an accessible-friendly short walk or more challenging longer hikes
- Discover details of our history
- Experience the transition from regenerating bush to pristine beech forest
- Walk beside the Brook Stream weirs and waterfalls
- Hear the bird song
- View weta hotels
- Look up and down and around ...

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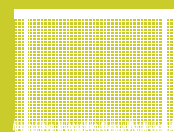
Kilometres
from
Nelson
City

690

Hectares



The **ONLY**
sanctuary in
New Zealand
with mature
beech forest



Enclosed in
the safety
of a 14.4km
fence



15km public
walking tracks

120km
Operational
tracks





Photo: Andrew MacDonald



Photo: Hannah Shand



Photo: Jane Reed



Photo: Andrew MacDonald





Our heritage

The Sanctuary has a visible rich history and is located on a site with historical significance

The pristine waters of Waimārama were essential to the existence of iwi. It was a place to gather kai (food), plants used for rongoā (healing) and source pakohe - a valuable type of mudstone (indurated argillite) used to make tools.

Since colonial settlement, the site that is now the Brook Waimārama Sanctuary had been mined for coal and was also Nelson's water supply. The eastern boundary of the Sanctuary was also next to the location of New Zealand's first railway, the Dun Mountain Railway, established to cart mined resources and later used as a passenger service to the city and port.

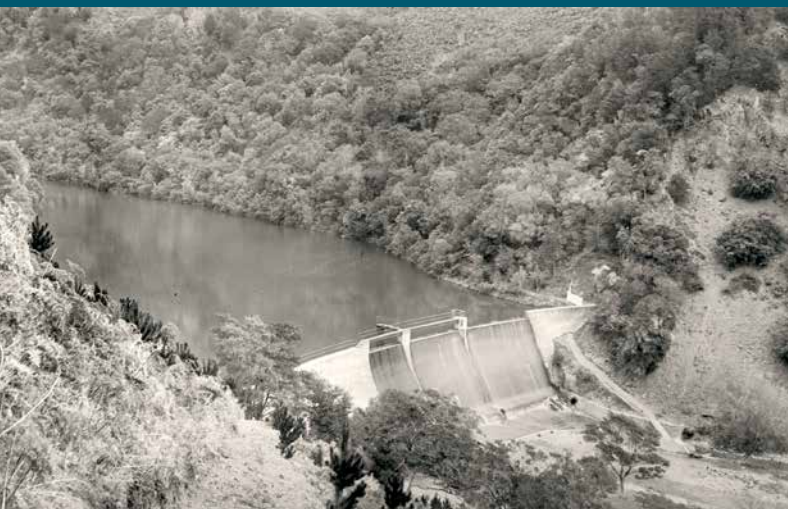
The Sanctuary was built on the vision and inspiration of dedicated and committed members of the community to restore nature to Nelson. Work on delivering the vision commenced in 2004 and involved many people and volunteer hours, various organisations and Te Tau Ihu iwi.

Building tracks and trapping predators was integral to the creation of the Sanctuary to enable the pest removal programme to commence. However, building the perimeter fence - 14.4km of human technology to protect our native animals from introduced predators - is the most significant milestone in the Sanctuary's history to date.

After twelve years of planning and two years of construction, the fence - 7,500 posts, 1,040 rolls of mesh, 44 storm water swales, nine gates, four culverts, and one flood gate - was completed. It cost \$4.2m to build, raised via contributions from Nelson City Council and Tasman District Council, a sizeable LGB grant and general community support.

Another significant milestone was the completion of The Loop Track, which enables wheelchair and mobility scooter access into the Sanctuary. Three years in the planning, \$500,000 of raised funds and 3,000 volunteer hours were involved, the final part being the construction of the Founders' Bridge across the big dam in 2020. Support came from many sources including Lottery Grants Board, Nelson City Council, the business community, and individual supporters.

The dam and reservoir - Nelson Provincial Museum



Stroll to the reservoir - Nelson Provincial Museum

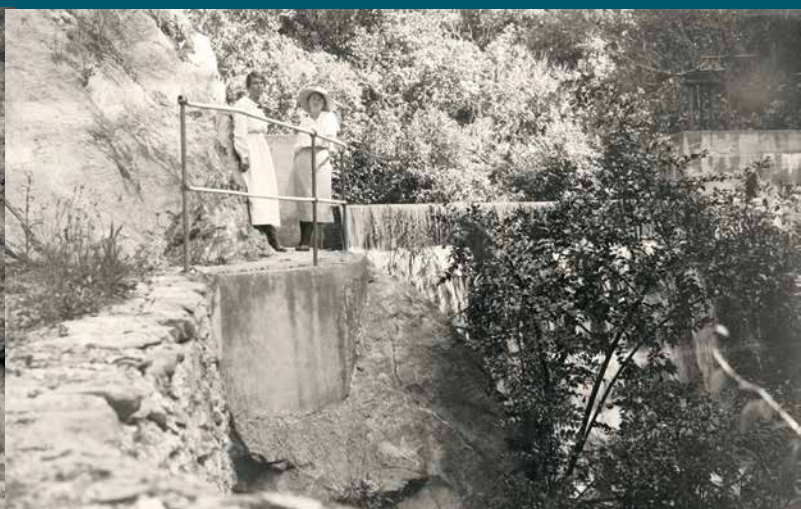


Photo: Andrew MacDonald

"It's a no-brainer that whānau, hapū and iwi would want to support a concept like this because it is within our whakapapa as kaitiaki to look after the native bush and reintroduce the tikanga of using and utilising nature.

When we look around the various parts of rongoroa, Papatūānuku is very sick and the only way of healing Papatūānuku is by planting native species and ensuring that the birdlife is there.

We have a responsibility and we want to pass this rohe on to the next generation, our grandchildren, and give them an example of what Nelson used to look like.

Waimārama is the classical example of birdlife, and the ngahere, of what Whakatū used to look like."

Barney Thomas, Te Tau Ihu iwi Representative

Sir John Key (Prime Minister at the time) symbolically closed the gate on the newly constructed perimeter fence in 2016 - Photo Grant Stirling

Founders' Bridge completed in 2020





Our people

An enduring wildlife Sanctuary by the community, for the community

Our people are the backbone of the Sanctuary – they are passionate about conservation and keen to make a difference - to Nelson's, and New Zealand's, ecology.

The first 15 years of the Sanctuary's life has achieved great things - of particular note the fundraising and construction of the pest fence – with a small staff (who primarily focus on effective operational delivery and best-practice eco-system management) and an army of volunteers.

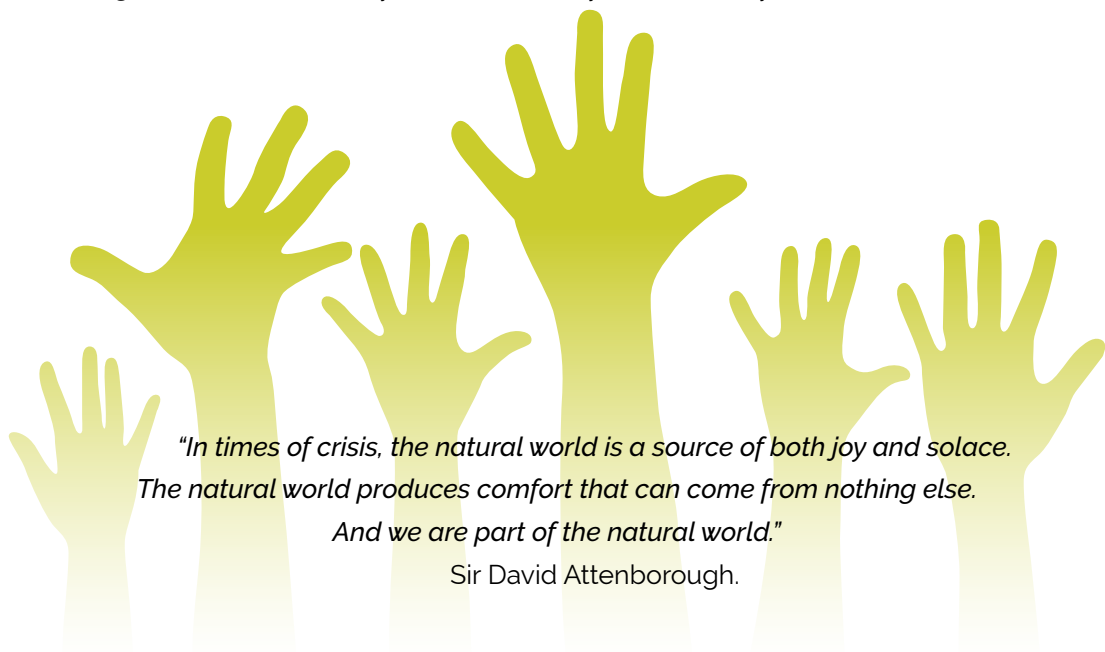
Contributing more than 20,000 hours annually, there would be no Sanctuary if it was not for our volunteers' efforts, which currently involve:

- Board of Trustees strategic direction and operational oversight
- Advisory and planning committees: Ecosystem Restoration; Health and Safety; Finance, Risk and Audit; Marketing, Communications and Visitor Experience; Operations; Fundraising
- Working teams: Fence Checking and Maintenance; Visitor Centre Management and Hosting; Pest Detection and Trapping; Bird Monitoring; Invasive Weed Control; Planting; Wasp Control; Assets (building and repairing all manner of things); Track Cutting and Maintenance; and Administration and Events.

The Sanctuary's future remains centred around the ongoing support of its engaged community as we grow, but we know we will always need a variety of skills from staff and volunteers if we are to deliver an enriched future. There is room for everyone to be involved.

In return, the environment we are creating is not only for the benefit of the wildlife. Connection with nature is now widely understood to be mentally enriching for humans. Nature is proven to heal, soothe and restore us, building appreciation of our connection to each other and the larger world, and combatting stress, depression, and anxiety.

Being surrounded by nature has a considerable impact on our health and wellbeing: just one of the many reasons to visit your Sanctuary.



*"In times of crisis, the natural world is a source of both joy and solace.
The natural world produces comfort that can come from nothing else.
And we are part of the natural world."*

Sir David Attenborough.





Nurturing and investigating

Leading, promoting and encouraging ecosystem restoration beyond the fence for the benefit of all New Zealanders and the generations that follow

Our unique species of native birds and other animals, isolated for millions of years, are ill-equipped to withstand predation by introduced mammals. An educated guess by Landcare Research places the number of chicks and eggs killed by predators each year around 26 million.

Introduced browsers (such as goats and pigs) destroy important ground protection for our native species, while invasive weeds pose similar challenges to native trees and plants.

The Sanctuary, and the region, has the opportunity to be a centre of conservation excellence in New Zealand, a position that aligns with the Te Tau Ihu Intergenerational Strategy, the Kotahitanga mō te Taiao Alliance and Strategy, and supports Nelson City Council's Nelson Nature initiatives and climate change emergency declaration.

As a supported and protective nursery for wildlife, the Sanctuary is perfectly placed to be a testbed for technology and process innovations to ensure our own and other ecosystems can be effectively nurtured.

With considerable experience in pest eradication we are well placed to support and guide a programme that extends further into our neighbouring bush.

The Sanctuary offers real value in capability and capacity for the development of long-term ecological trend research such as:

- Track the developing story of how a Sanctuary of this scale with close proximity to a city enriches the community
- Study the dwindling or increasing populations over time, and gain insights into the driving forces of these changes
- Study the effect of climate change in the Sanctuary
- Establish water quality reference sites and study the catchment ecology of the Sanctuary.



2,800
species
threatened
or
endangered



81%
endangered



88%
reptiles (frogs,
skinks, gecko,
tuatara)
endangered



72%
freshwater
fish
endangered

Endangered
statistics ex
Predator Free
NZ Ltd



Photo: Andrew MacDonald



Learning and empowering

We are passionate about education, providing opportunities for people of all ages to learn more about the richness of our unique biodiversity and prepare the next generation to build on our legacy of conservation

Effectively, the Sanctuary is a protected nursery for wildlife that will bring native birds back into our daily lives, through the gardens and parks of Nelson, Stoke, Richmond and beyond.

We aim to enhance the knowledge of our young (and not so young) people on the value of establishing, maintaining and enhancing the biodiversity of the environment, so they understand why it is relevant and important for all.

The Sanctuary has an outdoor classroom, developed with support from Ngāti Kuia Trust, local businesses and donors, that is well utilised by the schools in our region. We also offer self-guiding maps plus guided tours, so visitors gain maximum benefit from their time in the Sanctuary.

Our educational outreach has alignment with our regional museum's 'Learning and Education Outside the Classroom' programme, DOC's Visitor Centre in Nelson's CBD and Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology's ranger training programme.

Accessible information in key locations around the Sanctuary and out in the community is also important, so that people might:

- Learn more about conservation and how they can make a positive impact on the environment
- Hear the stories of iwi
- Understand their natural heritage
- Appreciate the role of animals and plants
- Remove pests through trapping in the environs and gardens around the Sanctuary creating greater safety for increasing populations of birds
- Support future reintroduction of iconic New Zealand species back into the Nelson Tasman region.



Teaching Tomorrow's Leaders



Outdoor Classroom



Education Outreach Programme



Guided Tours



Community presence



Story telling





Our strategic approach

As with most not-for-profit organisations the Sanctuary faces both challenges and opportunities for our future

The Sanctuary's operational turning point was the completion of the perimeter fence and the predator eradication programme. Now that this initial physical building phase is over, it is time to build our future as a meaningful and engaging experience. There is still much exciting work to be done. Underpinning this build phase is the need for sustainable finance and people resources.

We acknowledge our founding strategic partners:

- Department of Conservation
- Nelson City Council
- Te Taihū iwi
- Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology

To achieve our vision and implement our mission, the Sanctuary has developed six overarching pillars of measurable activity that aim to overcome challenges and leverage identified opportunities over the next 15 years:

- Operational excellence
- Enhanced relationships
- Compelling visitor experience
- Sustainable funding
- Education and research
- Dedicated people

All activities are underpinned by three guiding principles:

- Relevance: to our lives and our planet
- Connection: with our community
- Preservation: of what is precious to our wellbeing

There are several ways you can support us to achieve our vision:

- Be a Sanctuary Supporter (Individuals or families)
- Make a donation or regular small contributions - (in-kind welcome)
- Join the Brook Business Club
- Become a volunteer
- Sponsor a fencepost or other projects/facilities in the Sanctuary
- Leave a bequest or endowment
- Be social by following us Facebook or Instagram, or posting a review on Tripadvisor
- Visit us - and bring a friend!

A hiker with a backpack is standing on a forest floor, looking out over a vast, lush green valley. The hiker is wearing a pink long-sleeved shirt, blue trousers, and a large blue backpack. They are standing on a pile of fallen branches and moss. The forest is dense with tall trees and vibrant green foliage. In the background, a valley stretches out, filled with more trees and a few distant hills under a cloudy sky.

*The Hidden Valleys
of Waimārama*

Photo: Andy MacDonald



15-year strategic framework

Our Vision

To be an eco-sanctuary nationally recognised for its exemplary conservation practices, where wildlife, education, and research flourish.

Our Mission

To restore a predator-free mature native forest, enabling people to engage with the natural world in a way that promotes environmental responsibility and our community's health and wellbeing, and contributes to the recovery of our local and national ecosystems.

Our Values/ Operating Principles

Kaitiakitanga

Acknowledging our role as guardians and protectors of the natural environment.

Manaakitanga

We are welcoming and share what we have and love and value.

Mahitahi

We work together with others so we can achieve more.

Key Pillars



Operational Excellence

Building an exemplary and sustainable natural habitat - the Sanctuary Ecosystem



Enhanced Relationships

Engaging the active support and participation of our stakeholder communities



Compelling Visitor Experience

Creating an accessible experience with a compelling offer for all visitors

Objectives

Land requirements identified and develop Sanctuary site plan

Create a 'pride of place'

Create a special and relevant offering that provides value for money

Nurture existing and reintroduced 'lost' native species

Close and effective relationships with key stakeholders

Celebrate what we have and, when appropriate, our species reintroductions

Implement effective technology solutions

Connect with similar organisations in region and nationally

Broaden messaging to include wellbeing and education as well as conservation

Increase 'beyond the fence' activities

Secure a strong and focused supporter base to advance the Sanctuary

Encourage an environmental appreciation that stays with the visitor after leaving the Sanctuary

Key Pillars		
 Financial Sustainability <i>Financial sustainability through earned, contributed and institutional funding</i>	 Education & Research <i>Providing opportunities to expand conservation knowledge and activity</i>	 Dedicated People <i>Sufficient people to provide effective governance, management and implementation</i>
Objectives		
Clearly articulate value of financial contribution	Increase understanding of ecosystem restoration - forest, plants and animals (including humans)	Value and nurture our staff and volunteers
Exercise best practice fiscal responsibility and prudent budgeting	Provide a canvas rich in research opportunity	Define skills matrix and target people with the right skills for when needed
Develop and grow self-generated funding avenues	Develop and share our knowledge to foster future guardianship	Share knowledge with other like-minded organisations
Create and broaden fundraising opportunities	Encourage ecosystem conservation beyond the fence	Call on and value active input from our community

Measured By:

- Benchmarking, research outcomes and endorsement by national and international conservation authorities and experts confirms the exemplary status of the Sanctuary.
- Growing and broadening levels of institutional, partnership and philanthropic support, confirm positive engagement of key stakeholders, including volunteers.
- Visitor, education and event participation demographics and feedback confirm increasing positive local, national and international engagement experiences; infrastructure and visitor facilities meet effective quality assurance initiatives.
- Increased funding from existing and new sources and increasing effectiveness of spend.
- Engage sufficient volunteers to undertake the majority of projects as required.

Underpinned by:

- **Being relevant** to our lives and our planet
- **Connecting** our community with nature
- **Preserving** what is precious to our wellbeing



15-year goals



2030

- Additional land requirements met

- Perceived as a location of national significance
- Species reintroductions continue
- Reassess what conservation looks like regionally and nationally

- Community support 10% (~5,000 people)
- Community awareness 75% Nelson and 40% Tasman regions

- Full suite of digitalised (remote) experiences
- National recognition as a visitor destination

- Reserves built to meet all depreciation needs

- Capital for Cultural Centre / front-of-house completed

- 3000 students through Sanctuary p.a.
- Synonymous with immersive, fun, interactive, education experiences
- Evidence of significant positive social change

- R&D program outcomes support Sanctuary as a conservation centre of excellence

2035

- Support neighbouring DOC, NCC and TDC estates (part of halo) progressing toward predator-free

- Part of a global network of sanctuaries representing best practice

- Supporter base 10,000

- International recognition as a visitor destination.
- Cultural Centre project completed

- Reserves built to cover 3 years of operations costs
- Foundation holds >\$20m

- Recognised centre of conservation excellence supplying knowledge to support species re-introductions

- 6000 students through Sanctuary annually

- Extend R&D activity beyond the Sanctuary itself (eg the downstream waterways and Richmond Forest)

Success Factors

- Efficient systems giving >95% confidence of costs & pest control

- Internationally recognised for protecting and enhancing an exemplary and sustainable natural ecosystem

- Community support >20% in Nelson region

- Sanctuary in the top 10 visitor destinations in Nelson Tasman

- A self-sustainable eco-business

- High quality, highly prized community asset
- Financial sustainability through earned, contributed and institutional funding

- >80% community show social change and are fully supportive of the Sanctuary
- Perceived as an educational centre of excellence, enabling people to understand and participate in the conservation journey

- Conservation contribution from research papers recognised nationally and internationally

*"Enriching our community through
connecting with nature"*

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 Trip Advisor

