Fan-tales Newsletter
Whiringa-ā-rangi | November 2026



Tuatara - photo credit: Elizabeth del Angel

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Kia ora koutou, welcome to our November newsletter.

This month we reflect on the incredible mahi of our team, volunteers and supporters who continue to help the Sanctuary thrive.

There's plenty happening across the Sanctuary, from our recent AGM and the arrival of Pua o Te Rēinga – the flower of the underworld – seeds, to preparations for tuatara monitoring following their recent translocation and kiwi encounters on our night guided walks. We're also enjoying reports of kākā sightings beyond the Sanctuary fence, a wonderful sign of our growing conservation impact.

Behind the scenes, exciting infrastructure projects are underway, including a new wheelchair access ramp and the redevelopment of our entrance beyond the biosecurity gate, helping create a more welcoming and accessible experience for visitors.

I'd also like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Aliment Brewing, MD Outdoors, Patagonia, our business supporters, private and regular donors for their generous support of the Sanctuary and its ongoing operations. Your contributions make a real difference.

Thank you to everyone who continues to be part of our journey.

Enjoy the read!

Ngā mihi,
Chris McCormack
Chief Executive



RECONNECT WITH NATURE

News & Updates

This month's conservation focus includes:



Photo credit: Ngā Manu Nature Reserve

Pua o Te Rēinga – The flower of the underworld

On the 22nd of October, we translocated 30 seed heads of Pua o Te Rēinga from Ngā Manu Nature reserve in Waikanae, the first time this plant has been translocated to the South Island.

www.brooksanctuary.org.nz/2026/11/pua-o-te-reinga



Kākā on the Move!

Kākā are increasingly being spotted beyond the Sanctuary fence, including around Britannia Heights! Have you seen one?

We'd love you to report your sightings which can be submitted on our website;

www.brooksanctuary.org.nz/nature-wildlife/kaka



Annual General Meeting

Thank you to everyone who attended our recent AGM to hear our achievements, highlights and future plans. Special thanks to the Rutherford Hotel for the room hire and Craigs Investment Partners for catering support.

Read our Annual Report on our website below!

www.brooksanctuary.org.nz/our-story/key-documents



Sanctuary Opening Hours

From Wednesday, 11th November, we will move to our Summer timetable.

Tuesday - Sunday, 9:00am - 5:00pm (last entry 4:00pm).

Pua o Te Rēinga – The flower of the underworld





Lesser short-tailed bat covered in Dactylanthus pollen - Ngā Manu Nature Reserve



Taonga being brought up to the Sanctuary with Te Ātiawa and Ngā Manu representatives

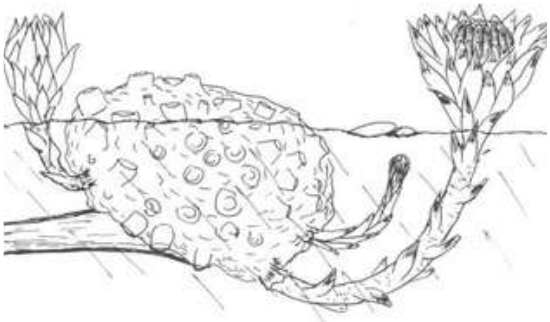


Illustration of Dactylanthus underground tuber and above-ground flower - Avi Holzapfel DOC

Aotearoa is the only home to a strange and alien looking plant.

A remarkable and rarely seen native plant has found a new home at the Sanctuary, marking an exciting milestone for conservation in Te Tau Ihu.

On 22 October, we welcomed 30 seed heads of pua o Te Rēinga (Dactylanthus taylorii) from Ngā Manu Nature Reserve in Waikanae. Also known as waewae atua, or the flower of the underworld, this unusual parasitic plant is found only in Aotearoa and is now threatened with extinction across much of its former range.

Unlike most plants, pua o Te Rēinga grows underground, attaching itself to the roots of host trees. Its unusual brown flowers produce generous amounts of nectar and a distinctive fragrance, attracting native wildlife including short-tailed bats, geckos and, historically, kākāpō.

Once widespread across New Zealand, the plant has declined dramatically due to introduced predators such as rats and possums, which damage its flowers and prevent successful reproduction. It is thought to be extinct in Te Waipounamu, making this translocation particularly significant.

The arrival of pua o Te Rēinga represents more than the return of a threatened plant. It offers an opportunity to restore ancient ecological relationships and provide an important food source for native wildlife. The Sanctuary's regenerating forest contains many of the host trees needed for the plant to establish, with the potential for it to spread throughout the forest over time.

This special translocation was made possible through collaboration with Ngā Manu Nature Reserve, botanists and mana whenua, including Ngāti Rereahu, Te Ātiawa ki Whakarongotai and iwi of Te Tau Ihu, who will inherit kaitiakitanga of these taonga.

The seeds have now been carefully placed among suitable host-tree roots. It will take several years for the plants to establish and flower, but we look forward to following their progress and, hopefully, seeing pua o Te Rēinga flourish once again in the South Island.

The translocation to the Sanctuary required consultation and partnership with mana whenua, from Ngāti Rereahu, Te Ātiawa ki Whakarongotai and the iwi of Te Tau Ihu, as they are to inherit kaitiakitanga of pua. Present were representatives from Ngāti Tama, Ngāti Rārua, Te Ātiawa and Ngāti Koata. The ceremony on the day was a joyous occasion, as the seeds were welcomed to their new home on a new island.

Sanctuary Initiatives

The latest updates

From the Stage to the Forest!

A big thank you to Québec's Machine de Cirque and Nelson Arts Festival for visiting the Sanctuary and spotting their very first tuatara!





Thank you, Horizon Solar!

A huge thank you to Horizon Solar for generously cleaning the solar panels at our Visitor Centre, helping keep our facilities running efficiently.

We really appreciate your support!



Experience the magic of the forest after dark!

Discover the Sanctuary at night with our guided Night Tours and enjoy a special 25% OFF until the end of November!

Spot nocturnal wildlife, listen to the sounds of the forest and experience the magic of our glowworms - maybe hear or see a kiwi!

Book your adventure today and use code NIGHT25 at checkout.

www.brooksanctuary.org.nz/visit/guided-tours-experiences







Patagonia Impact Incentive

A huge thank you to Patagonia and MD Outdoors for their generous donation through Patagonia's Impact Incentive Programme, supporting our conservation work and native wildlife.

Thanks to the Freemasons

A heartfelt thank you to the Southern Star Lodge Freemasons for their generous $1,500 donation in memory of Sally Grimmett, a much-loved, long-serving Sanctuary volunteer.

Donated Plants

We're incredibly grateful to Kūmānu for their generous donation of plants to the Sanctuary which will be added to our entrance redevelopment.

Thanks to our Business Supporters

EUGY - Tuatara



A big thank you to **EUGY by Dodoland** for their recent $1,000 donation through their Habitat for Species Protection programme. A portion of tuatara puzzle sales supports the Sanctuary's conservation work, helping protect our tuatara.

We really appreciate your support!

These can be purchased from our Sanctuary Visitor Centre.

https://eugy.com/products/004-tuatara



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.

Thanks to recent Brook Business Club & Kaitiaki Members:

- Absolute Energy
- Venue Tech
- Little Bird Audiology - (Kaitiaki)
- Taylors Contracting Ltd - (Kaitiaki)
- CORA (COR Associates Ltd) - (Kaitiaki)
- RMA Ecology Ltd - (Kaitiaki)
- Nelson Dental Centre - (Kaitiaki)
- Titoki Nursery Ltd - (Kaitiaki)

Learn more about some of our Business supporters here:

www.brooksanctuary.org.nz/support-us/sponsors

Events

Coming soon...



Sanctuary Open Day 2027

Pencil into your calendar, in 2027 our Sanctuary Open Day will be held:

Sunday, 18th April 2027 | 10am – 4pm – final details to come soon!



Join us at the Santa Parade

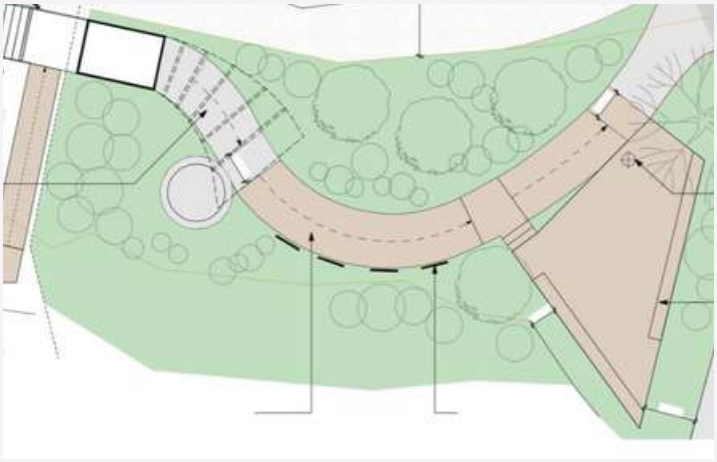
Our Junior Rangers recently getting creative making face mask for the Nelson Santa Parade!

Come along in November and cheer on our young kaitiaki representing the Sanctuary and our glowworm float. Sunday, 29 November starting at 1:00pm

Volunteer Community

Our volunteer community remains the heart of the Sanctuary:





Looking to Volunteer?

We're looking for enthusiastic Volunteer Tour Guides and Visitor Centre Hosts to join our team.

Support the Sanctuary's conservation work and help create memorable visitor experiences.

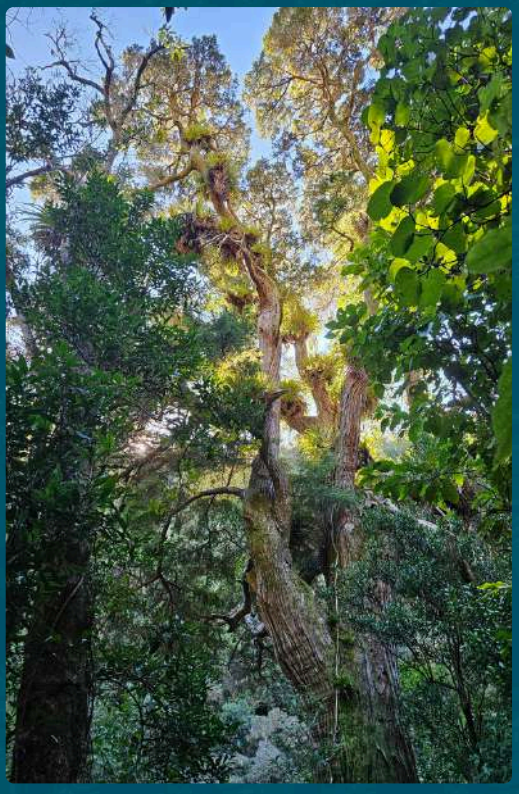
If this sounds like you, sign up today!

www.brooksanctuary.org.nz/support-us/become-a-sanctuary-volunteer

Big Projects ahead!

Over the coming months, our Asset Volunteers and contractors will be busy transforming the area behind the Visitor Centre and redeveloping the entrance beyond the biosecurity gate.

Works include a new wheelchair-accessible ramp, improved pathway, timber deck, landscaping and water fountain, creating a more welcoming, accessible and enjoyable experience for all our visitors.



Help Nature Flourish

Your donation supports our vital work from species monitoring, habitat restoration and the protection of native species at the Sanctuary

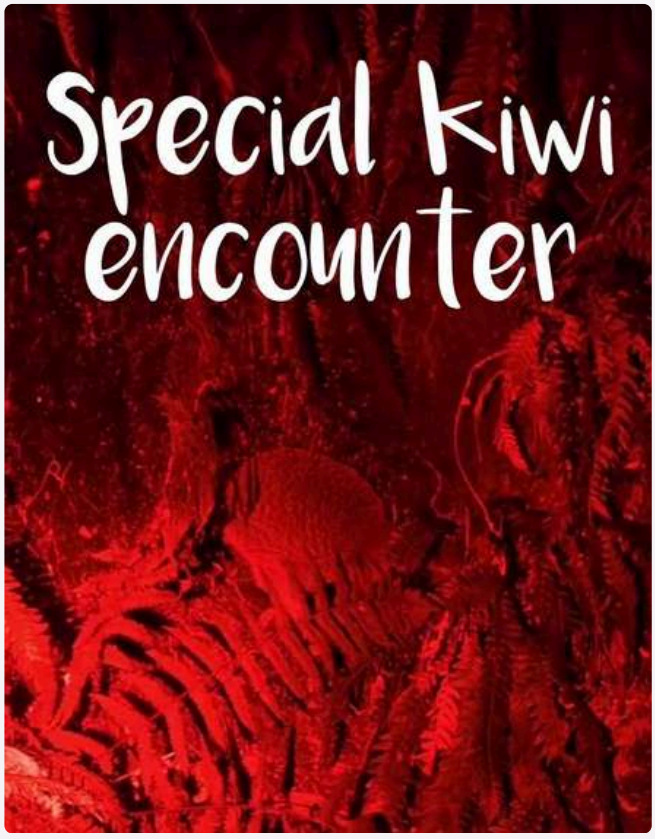
Every contribution makes a difference in helping our unique forest and wildlife thrive. Thank you for your support!

Donate today!

www.brooksanctuary.org.nz/support-us/donate

Social Media Highlights

What's been happening online:



A magical kiwi encounter beneath the glowworms!

A recent night guided tour delivered a truly special moment, when our visitors had an unexpected encounter with a kiwi!

While taking in the magical glowworms lighting up the forest, our group was treated to an unforgettable sighting of a kiwi moving through the darkness.

Moments like these are a beautiful reminder of why we do what we do — protecting precious native wildlife and creating a safe haven where these incredible species can thrive.

Video credit: Joelle

Watch on YouTube

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nfjipTzW3SQ

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.

Strategic Supporters

We couldn't do it without you!

Department of Conservation Te Papa Atawbai

jasmine SOCIAL INVESTMENTS

NBS Community We believe. We invest.

Nelson City Council Te Kaunihera o Whakatū



Where the kākāriki are you?!

Support the Sanctuary

There are so many ways you can support the Sanctuary – sponsor us, become a volunteer, donate or become a member.

info@brooksanctuary.org.nz

651 Brook St, The Brook
Nelson 7010
New Zealand

(03) 539 4920