

## Leaves from the Brook

The newsletter of the Brook Waimarama Sanctuary  
Issue 12 – July 2006

### “Raising the Roof” Celebration & Coin Collection Launch

We had a most wonderful day at the Brook on May 21<sup>st</sup>. With 3 marquees to erect and food, drink and displays to set out, it was an early start for our trusty band of energetic volunteers! Thanks to all those capable hands, everything fell nicely into place ready for the kick-off ceremony and speeches.



Minister of Tourism, Damien O'Connor gives Trust Chairperson, Dave Butler, the tourism cheque

Archdeacon Harvey Whakaruru began the ceremony with a moving karakia, followed by a lovely waiata sung by several Mosaic choir members. The mike was then handed over to our special guest, Damien O'Connor, the Minister of Tourism. Damien told us of his family links to the Nelson area - the O'Connor family were early pioneers who settled in the Appleby area in the 1850's. With tongue in cheek, Damien related how, given his ancestors' hand in the modification and development of the area, he was pleased now to be personally able to give something back towards the region's restoration of nature. His speech concluded with the handover a \$52,510.00 cheque from the Ministry of Tourism Facilities Development Grant to Trust Chairperson, Dave Butler. This money is specifically for the entrance building interior and exterior displays and interpretation. Dave Butler concluded the ceremony with a speech acknowledging all the assistance given to the Sanctuary by many volunteers and various companies.



After the speeches, members and supporters were invited to look at the newly-roofed entrance building, take part in guided walks, check out the displays and information on field activities, view and place their coins on the stunning chalk-art tuatara and be part of rat and stoat trapping game competition. Thanks to all our volunteers' fantastic efforts and everyone who came for making the day such an outstanding success.



Trustee David Leadbetter explains the upcoming field work



Talented artist Dean Raybould drew this beautiful tuatara outline and everyone enjoyed filling it with their coins



Thanks to Dean Schneider for these great pics

## Entrance Building Progress

The NMIT carpentry students and staff have now completed their part of the work on our entrance building construction. The tutors and students worked over 2 consecutive years and built the foundations, floor and framing in preparation for the roof to go on in May this year. The Trust would like to extend our grateful thanks to NMIT carpentry school for their time, knowledge and skills, and their immense and practical contribution to the Sanctuary project. The completion of our entrance building will be now led by builder and Brook Sanctuary member, Alistair Wiffen.

## Trapping & Tracking Tunnel Progress Trapping

Peter Hay's hard-working track cutting crew have now set-out over 12 kilometers of operational access lines on both the east and west sides of the entrance building. The stoat traps (inside their trapping tunnels, made by our construction team) are now being placed along these lines. Each line is looked after by a team of four people, who will check the traps once a week when trapping begins shortly (so each individual checks them once a month). If you are interested in being involved in one of these teams, please contact Sanctuary Trustee Dave Leadbetter at 5488233, or [leadbetter.hirst@xtra.co.nz](mailto:leadbetter.hirst@xtra.co.nz).



Some members of the trackcutting crew ready for action

## Tracking Tunnels

Before we start trapping, we need to monitor mustelid, rodent and bird numbers to prove how effective it is. Monitoring the pests is being done according to a national protocol using tracking tunnels in which they leave their footprints. We planned to use plastic coreflute to build these tunnels, but there are so many pests out there and the country so unstable that we will need to change to aluminum. DOC found the same at Lake Rotoroa where possums were causing the destruction, whereas here at the Brook they are being helped by herds of goats. Another team of volunteers are ready to put the tracking tunnels out in the field and undertake the required monitoring.

## Reporting Progress

It was recently the Trust's time to report back to the Nelson City Council on progress. Work proceeds on many fronts. Our fund-raising totals almost \$500,000, including \$210,000 towards the key element of the pest-proof fence. From this sound footing we plan to put more effort into talking to our two local councils and potential individual and business sponsors about supporting the fence. The level of voluntary support from the local community is almost overwhelming. Behind the scenes we are working away on other key issues like resource consents.

## Something Fishy – Brook Stream Native Fish Monitoring

Martin Rutledge, the local DOC freshwater ecologist, has been working with with NCC engineers and Cawthron to try and find ways to help the native fish move into the upper Brook Stream.

As spring comes around, whitebait begin their migrations up the Maitai River in search of suitable adult habitat. Some of these whitebait will make a right hand turn off the Maitai and try and make their way up the Brook Stream. While the Brook offers excellent habitat for whitebait species in its upper reaches, getting past various obstructions and through the concrete "gutter section" is the big challenge and it appears very few whitebait make it.

For whitebait, the first major obstacle is the steep exit out of the big culvert running under Nile Street. This whitebait season, Martin and others will be keeping an eye on the stretch of river below and above the Nile Street culvert to see what the whitebait get up to and how they behave. This will help in figuring out the design and location of a suitable fish pass. If anyone happens to notice whitebait upstream in the Brook this season or has any observations on fish seen in the Brook, or even 'fishy stories', please contact: Martin Rutledge on 546 3142 or via email: [mrutledge@doc.govt.nz](mailto:mrutledge@doc.govt.nz).



Whitebait - photo supplied by DOC

## Cash in for Nature



Use your small change to make a big change  
& provide kiwi and tuatara with a local sanctuary

**“Don’t panic and give someone  
else your old coins!”**

Here are several opportunities in August to collect those coins....

### Coin Collection Campaign Progress

Since launching the “Cash in for Nature” fundraising campaign, to collect up the coinage going out of circulation, we have raised over \$1000.00 – and we’ve only just started! We are thrilled at how many local companies have accepted the collection jars distributed by David Marriott and his enthusiastic team. So if you have a collection of 5c’s and other coins you should readily find somewhere to deposit them. If you know of another venue that would accept a jar, please ring David at 545 6399.

We are delighted that the students of Nayland College’s Environmental Committee are working with other colleges to develop a collecting campaign for primary schools. A wonderful initiative!

### Coin Campaign Event 26 August

We are also holding a “Cash in for Nature” coin collection event at the Nelson Market on Saturday 26 August. Golden Bay based artist, Dean Raybould, will be there creating more beautiful tuatara and kiwi images to fill with your coins, so save them up and come visit us at the market on the 26<sup>th</sup>. We expect to be at the large site on the eastern side of Montgomery Square, (closest to Trafalgar Street, access via Bank Lane) and would love to see you there!

### EcoFest

The Brook will have a stall again at EcoFest this year (12-13<sup>th</sup> August), so come and visit us and bring your interested friends and family. We’ll have our coin collection caravan parked near the entrance, and on it will be a board telling you exactly where our stall is. Thanks in anticipation to the volunteers who are rostered on to staff the stall, - there’ll be “general hand” volunteers there on Saturday and Trustees on Sunday.

### WWF Habitat Protection Funding

We have just heard we have been granted \$12,760.00 from this fund to contribute to our pest control work. Thanks to WWF and our hard-working fundraising team for putting together yet another successful application.

### Brook Sanctuary, DOC & NMIT Environmental Education Initiative

A new and exciting collaboration is currently under discussion between the sanctuary, DOC and NMIT. The proposal is to build a combined “Environmental Education and Training Centre” and selection of a suitable site for this facility is currently under discussion with the Nelson City Council. The proposed education centre will bring long-term benefits to all three parties –, the sanctuary, for example, will be able to use the centre for training and community talks; NMIT will use it for a base for its Trainee Ranger and other environmental programmes and DOC will have it as one of 3 national field training centres for biodiversity and visitor assets courses. Bringing together these different aspects of environmental education will have huge benefits - particularly for the Nelson community. It is hoped to begin the first stage of the Centre within the next year.

### Brook Waimarama Sanctuary Annual General Meeting (AGM) 30 August

It is hard to fathom where the last year has gone as it doesn’t seem that long ago we had our last AGM!

This year’s AGM is scheduled for Wednesday 30 August, at 7.30pm at the NCC Council Chambers. We would love to see you all there and hope to organise an interesting and inspiring guest speaker.



For more information contact: Ann Sheridan - Sanctuary Coordinator

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